ENTERTAINMENT / F1
Meet the board of censors chief: Grace Llamanzares

LEARNING / H1
Student artists depict life in RP

SPORTS / A30
Giants edge Phillies, gain World Series

BUSINESS / B7
Mang Inasal CEO bullish on growth with Jollibee

Unemployed guard wins siesta contest

MADRID—A 62-year-old Ecuadorean man managed to ignore the uproar of a booming Madrid shopping center and snore loudly enough to win what was billed as Spain's

JUBILATION A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, October 25, 2010 ★★ 13 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 319 P18

Fear of China's might clouds Asian summit

HANOI—Behind the official handshakes and smiles at this week's 16-nation Asian summit in Vietnam, China's increasingly assertive behavior means the region will be in an apprehensive mood, analysts say.

President Aquino is among the leaders attending the summit, which starts on Thursday. He is scheduled to leave

MAIN A20

4,000 incumbents in today's barangay polls face ouster

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A CLOUD is hanging over the candidacy of over 4,000 barangay captains seeking reelection for the 4th time as the country holds barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections today.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) yesterday announced that it would file disqualification cases against barangay candidates whose names were on the list of "multiple termers" the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) had provided the poll body.

The DILG inventory has identified 4,410 barangay captains nationwide who were found to be on their third or fourth terms, but are still seeking reelection.

Under the law governing the synchronized barangay and SK elections, an elected village official can serve for more than three terms.

"Our election officers are now checking the records against the list of candidates in their respective jurisdictions," Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez said at yesterday's press briefing in Intramuros, Manila.

"And if there are matches, the Comelec law departments will right away file disqualification cases against those people," Jimenez said.

Appropriate criminal charges—perjury and material misrepresentation—shall also be filed against those candidates, he said.

The list provided by the DILG has been distributed to all the election officers nationwide on Saturday for validation.

In a last-minute move, the Comelec last night decided to postpone the elections in Barangays San Isidro and Subangan in Panigui town in Tarlac because floods spawned by Supertyphoon "Juan" have cut subsidized.

It said Election Chair Jose

4,000 on

BACK TO MANUAL COUNT Ballot boxes are lined up at Ephraim delos Santos Elementary School in Manila for today's polls. ALVIN TOLEDO

CHARICE A magical blend of power and sensitivity.

Charice soars at concert

By Pachale Concepcion
Entertainment

AN ABUNDANCE of love and deep sense of gratitude swept both performers and audience at the David Foster and Friends concert on Saturday night at Araneta Coliseum.

The show, attended by some 18,000 people, marked the homecoming performance of the Philippines' most famous singer, Charice, who has been living in the United States for a couple of years while pursuing an international career.

Charice joined an impressive lineup of artists, including Natalie Cole and Peter Cetera, "American Idol" season two winner Ruben Studdard, and

CHARICE A11

Another P-Noy EO challenged

Order suspending exec perks assailed

By Marlon Ramos

PRESIDENT AQUINO is headed for yet another legal battle at the Supreme Court.

A lawyer of Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) in Butuan City has asked the top court to declare as unconstitutional Mr. Aquino's order suspending all allowances, bonuses and incentives of officials of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), and government financial institutions (GFIs).

Mr. Aquino stopped raises in the salaries and other benefits of board members, executives and regular employees exempted from the Salary Standardization Law when he issued Executive Order No. 7 last month.

In a petition for certiorari and prohibition, Adbert Galicto argued that the President was ill-advised in signing EO 7 which, he said, "is null and void for lack of legal basis."

It was the third time the President was challenged before the high court for issuing an executive order. (See "What went before" on Page A10.)

In his petition, Galicto said the issuance of EO 7 infringed on the legislative powers of the Senate and the House of Representatives since the order "is by substance a law."

"[The order] is a derogation of congressional prerogative and is therefore unconstitutional," Galicto said in his petition dated Oct. 22.

He said the order should be declared "invalid and unconstitutional for being whimsical, ar-

ANOTHER A10

LEGAL BATTLE pits UP law dean Marvic Leonen (left) and his professors against Chief Justice Renato Corona (right) and the Supreme Court.

Aquino blunders may embolden adventurists

By Amando Doronila

NO FILIPINO leader since the 1986 People Power Revolution has entered office with a more resounding electoral mandate than President Aquino, and yet, doubts have started to emerge over the loyalty of the military to his administration.

ANALYSIS

This uncertainty hangs precariously like the sword of Damocles over Mr. Aquino's head, as his popularity erodes in the wake of the bungled Aug. 23 hostage-taking crisis.

In the effort to consolidate control over the chronically disgruntled military, the President has pursued a policy of appeasement by granting amnesty to Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV and the 300 soldiers he led in the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny, those involved in the February 2006 Marines standoff at Fort Bonifacio and in the seizure of the Peninsula Manila hotel in November 2007.

The amnesty grant to Trillanes, for example, was

AQUINO A10

SC urged to forgo sanctions vs UP profs

LET THE SIDESHOW pass and move on.

Sen. Edgardo Angara yesterday said the Supreme Court should just move on and drop its plan to sanction law professors of the University of the Philippines for accusing a magistrate of plagiarism.

"Even if this is a sensitive issue because it touches on the acrobilities of the justices, I think they just let this sideshow pass because there are bigger constitutional issues being faced by the Supreme Court. We don't need to add to the flos at this point," Angara said in an interview with dzBB radio.

"In the dynamics of a democratic society there is nobody beyond criticism as long as it is principled and not personal. I read the position paper of the UP law faculty. Why should they take offense?"

The high court has threat-

SC UNDER A10

Meet the tag team of Radyo Inquirer 990

WILFREDO "WILLY" Mateo was wanted to become a lawyer while Donavin "Don" Maranan, a military officer.

Today, the deep-voiced Willy gets to argue his case while the hefty Don is always ready with a battle plan.

On the air, that is.

Mateo and Maranan form the tag team in the newest early morning news and current affairs program on the AM band. Both pioneering dzRH

of dzIQ Radyo Inquirer 990, they serve up piping hot reports and punchy commentary as anchors of "In Desk Control."

The boyish buddies strike the opening bell for early risers from 5:30 a.m. to 7 a.m., Monday to Friday.

Maranan recalled that as a child he wanted to become a lawyer. But in third year high school, his geometry teacher asked him to read out an equa-

MEET A21

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2010

WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY: Mainly cloudy with isolated rains and thunderstorms

Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Manila	Mostly Cloudy
Dagupan	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo	Mostly Cloudy
Aparri	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	San Jose	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu City	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Catarman	Mostly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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LOTTO 10/52 Tue/09 LOTTO, result to 4447. P1.00 jackpot

Bill seeks insurance for journalists

By Nestor F. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—Party-list lawmakers have filed a bill seeking mandatory additional insurance coverage for Filipino journalists on field assignments.

House Bill No. 3662 (Journalists' Insurance Act of 2010), filed by Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño, requires media employers to provide:

- P200,000 in death benefits for those killed while performing their work;
- P200,000 in total or partial disability;
- A minimum of P500,000 in reimbursement of medical expenses for all news media practitioners and employees on field assignment, including hostile areas, which shall be hospitalized or who shall require medical attendance for injuries sustained while in the line of duty.

The proposed law requires media entities to pay for the premiums of the insurance policy. They shall have the option to get the insurance company to enroll their qualified (covered) employees.

The benefits are on top of existing insurance benefits given to journalists and employees of media entities in field assignment by the Social Security System (SSS) and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

Refusal by media entities and insurance companies to enroll the journalists and other media employees, or to provide additional insurance coverage will be punishable by a fine of P500,000 to P800,000 or imprisonment from one year to six years, or both.

Casiño, former national president of the College Editors Guild of the Philippines, said in a statement that the insurance coverage and benefits for media practitioners and families of slain or permanently disabled journalists "will at the very least, restore temporary relief while awaiting the resolution of their cases."

Filipino journalists continue to work amid risks and grave threats on their safety and life, he said, citing a report of the New York-based media watchdog, Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), which ranked the Philippines the second most dangerous place for journalists in 2005 and 2006.

The majority of those killed in the Philippines were covering politics, corruption and crime and on overwhelming majority were murdered because of their work, while the rest died during dangerous assignments, Casiño noted.

He cited the massacre of 32 journalists who were among the 58 passed closer to Ampatuan town in Maguindanao on Nov. 23, 2009.

Somali pirates seize 14 Filipinos

MOGADISHU—Somali pirates have hijacked a Singapore-flagged liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tanker off the coast of war-torn Somalia, the European Union (EU) military coalition and a regional maritime official said on Sunday.

Andrew Mwangura of the East African Seafarers' Assistance Programme said the pirates seized the Greek-managed MV York off Kenya on Saturday afternoon, less than 12 hours after it sailed from the Kenyan port of Mombasa.

The Panama-flagged vessel flies, EU Navfor, said the merchant crew of 17, including a German national, two Ukrainians, and 14 Filipinos, and was sailed some 50 km from Somalia. Reuters

Use motorists' tax solely to build roads, says Enrile

By Dec. Calimbahan Jr.

THE AQUINO administration plans to tap the P68-billion-a-year road user's tax collected from motorists for building roads rather than maintenance and beautification as part of its massive infrastructure development program under a private-public partnership (PPP) scheme.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said a number of Cabinet members had expressed support for his plan to repeal Republic Act No. 8794, which imposed a 150-percent increase in the registration fees of motor vehicles 10 years ago, particularly its provisions on the use of the funds.

Enrile said it would be better to use the road user's tax solely for the construction of new roads instead of using the money to purchase road signs and traffic lights, and to implement beautification projects.

"We can see where our money is going and we will not file a complaint. Every year, we can build maybe road networks with P30 billion," the senator said in an interview with ANC today.

He said he had talked with some members of President Aquino's Cabinet "and they have agreed to use the funds for PPP funding."

The President said in his first state of the Nation Address in July that his administration would prefer to share the burden of building roads, power plants and transportation projects in Metro Manila with private business in view of the lack of government finances to handle all these capital-intensive projects.

Enrile said there would be no need to allocate new funds in the budget for road construction. Instead, road users' contributions would have to go through the budget process in order to ensure tighter monitoring of funds.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago has called the road user's tax the "biggest pork barrel unaccounted for in the government" as there was no oversight committee to monitor where the money was being spent.

She claimed that P68 billion has already been raised from the tax since 2004, but most of these have been unaccounted for by the Commission on Audit.

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Recto: Cut number of Edsa buses by half

By GHC Catacungan Jr.

CUTTING HALF the number of public buses on Edsa (Epifanio delos Santos Avenue) will ease traffic in Metro Manila's main artery and boost volume of cars moving along the route.

With this proposal, Sen. Ralph Recto has asked Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Francis Tolentino to focus his traffic outlook plans along Edsa on buses that, according to a World Bank study, had incidents way beyond the capacity of the highway.

Recto said there were roughly 7,000 public utility buses plying the Edsa route, blasted mainly by "reckless" landowners/operators of buses traveling outside their designated way. The number is more than four times the ideal daily volume of 1,600 buses as suggested by the World Bank.

The MMDA had proposed to revamp the odd-even voluntary reduction program for private car owners on Edsa so as to cut by half the volume of traffic in the busy 24 kilometer avenue.

Under the program, vehicles whose license plate digits ends in odd numbers are off limits to Edsa on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, while those whose digits end in even numbers are banned on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

RECTO

The scheme will run as the same time as the current number coding scheme where cars are banned one day in a week in major thoroughfares, reducing Edsa.

"We cut down by half the current volume, we cut down traffic and even pollution along Edsa," Recto said.

The senator said that limiting the number of buses on Edsa would force commuters to patronize the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) 3, which was getting P7.2 billion in subsidies due to its failure to hit a projected volume of 600,000 riders a day. The MRT currently serves between 414,000 and 500,000 passengers a day.

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Irri keeps world's rice genes in doomsday vault

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—In a greenhouse near Manila, botanists grow strange grasses that bear tiny seeds which are precisely frozen to a doomsday vault under Norway's Arctic permafrost.

The Norway deliveries are just the newest flurry of a decades-old effort by more than 100 countries to save the world's many varieties of rice which might otherwise be lost.

It like-proof, quake-proof, typhoon-proof gene bank set up by the International Rice Research Institute (Irri) in the Philippines in 1962 now holds 115,000 varieties of one of the world's most important grains.

"We've got genes stored which could potentially help us increase the yields of rice, improve pest, herbicide and disease resistance, and help us address the effects of climate change," Irri geneticist Victor Hay said.

The rice varieties are grown at Irri's sprawling complex at the university town of Los Baños, two hours' drive south of Manila, so that they can be provided—free of charge—to farmers of governments around the world.

Irri like said that rice varieties were constantly being lost forever, despite the preservation efforts of Irri, a nonprofit organization funded by governments, multilateral banks and philanthropies.

Global spotlight

Such losses are under a global spotlight this week as delegates from more than 190 countries meet at a UN summit in Nagoya, Japan, to map out a strategy to stop the world's rapid loss of biodiversity in all plants and animals.

A rice variety can easily vanish due to pests, disease, drought or other natural disaster like a cyclone, or if its owner-peasant farmers simply stop planting it, Hay said.

Irri "just subsistence, but even farming can push wild rice varieties extinction.

And while some countries run their own gene banks, they are not always successful in preserving seeds. In the tropics, high humidity causes rice seeds to spoil after several years, Hay said.

At the Irri gene bank in the Philippines, seeds are stored in dry and cool conditions and can remain viable for up to 40 years.

The institute keeps its base collection in tiny sealed, barcoded aluminum cans in a room kept at a temperature cool below freezing.

They include a Bukayasan variety that was collected soon after the gene bank opened in 1962, some real like Latin American ones that grew taller than a man, and hardier varieties that look more like crawling weeds.

Duplicates in small foil sachets of about 400 seeds each are stored in a separate vault kept at zero degrees Celsius (32.8 Fahrenheit) and low humidity for passing on to those who need them for farming or research.

Given the importance of the collection, extra measures is always desirable—hence the rice gene bank being duplicated in Svalbard, Norway. They told Agence France-Presse on a tour last week of the Philippine facility.

Own grains

Since the Svalbard seed vault opened in February 2008, Irri has repositioned 50,000 of its own grains—and now there is duplicates stored safe in northern Norway in a series of flights that take four days.

One final delivery of about 40,000 varieties is due to be flown out from Manila airport this week to complete the project.

The seeds include those in larger genes by farmers, plus 4,000-odd seeds with genes bestowed by scientists to make the rice plant more aromatic and more resistant to pests and disease, and tolerance of drought and floodwaters.

Once completed, the Norway facility will act as a further backup to a US Department of Agriculture vault in Colorado that already holds duplicates of Irri's seeds.

Irri has, in particular, helped Cambodia's farmers to recover from the ravages of war. The Khmer Rouge regime killed millions of people—many through starvation—and forced farmers to grow only cereals rice varieties in the 1970s.

Phalla Ho Tauch, senior research manager of the gene bank, said she had once processed a request by Cambodia to send back seeds for about 500 of their native rice varieties.

"They lost the materials during the war. We had the collection here, in between 1981 and 1989 we repatriated the varieties that they lost," she said. AFP

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ALMOST STATIONARY

'Katring' now a storm, still far from RP

By Kristine L. Alave

TROPICAL DEPRESSION "Katring" intensified into a storm yesterday but is remained to be too far to affect the country and disturb the harvesting and transportation facilities, the state weather bureau said.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Katring, the 11th cyclone to enter the Philippine this year, was almost stationary at 960 east of northern Luzon.

It carried 65 kilometers per hour winds gusting at 80 kph and was moving north northwest at 7 kph, according to the weather agency's 5 p.m. bulletin.

Pagasa said the typhoon, which came on the heels of Supertyphoon "Juan" that devastated northern and central Luzon, was unlikely to make landfall in the Philippines.

Katring, a slow-moving storm, however, was expected to be 500 km east of Quezon province on Monday morning.

Although it had intensified, Pagasa did not yet raise public storm warning signals as of yesterday afternoon. It said the storm was still too distant for the Philippines to feel its effects.

Pagasa said forecast models showed the cyclone heading for Taiwan or southern Japan, sparing the Philippines as it steered from the destruction wrought by Juan.

Juan killed 30 people and brought almost P6 billion in losses to agriculture.

Pagasa said the country would have better weather in the coming days and advised the public, especially voters, to prepare for weather changes throughout the day.

Luzon, particularly southern and central Luzon, and Metro Manila, will be under cloudy skies and will experience scattered rain showers and thunderstorms today. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

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US to give P34.7M more in aid to victims of 'Juan'

THOMAS

THE UNITED States will provide $800,000 (P34.7 million) more in disaster relief assistance to victims of Supertyphoon "Juan," the US Embassy in Manila announced yesterday.

The additional aid will come from the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), it said.

US Ambassador Harry K. Thomas Jr. announced the assistance from the joint Special Operations Task Force and the Amphibious Landing Exercise would also give logistical support to the Armed Forces of the Philippines to help deliver relief goods to the affected areas.

"As a longstanding friend and ally of the Philippines, our military is proud to work side by side with the AFP to address the needs of communities," Thomas said.

Their "quick response" to the Philippine government's appeal for disaster relief and war-roads provided by the 1951 Mutual Defense Agreement and an annual military exercise that "address our two initiatives to work seamlessly together to respond to humanitarian crises," he said.

Thomas said the military "played a decisive role in helping us transport the tons of relief supplies gathered by national, provincial and local officials."

Since Dec. 28, the US military helped the AFP in conducting an aerial assessment of the typhoon-hit areas, delivering over 170,000 pounds of relief supplies and transporting over 100 American soldiers to assist in relief efforts in northern Luzon, he said.

Last week, the embassy said $200,000 worth of disaster relief aid would be released to the typhoon victims. Jerry E. Esplanada

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'Charlie 6' at Naia open

PEOPLE flying in and out of Manila can enjoy better and hassle-free travel through the Ninoy Aquino International Airport with the opening of a newly upgraded taxiway, officials said.

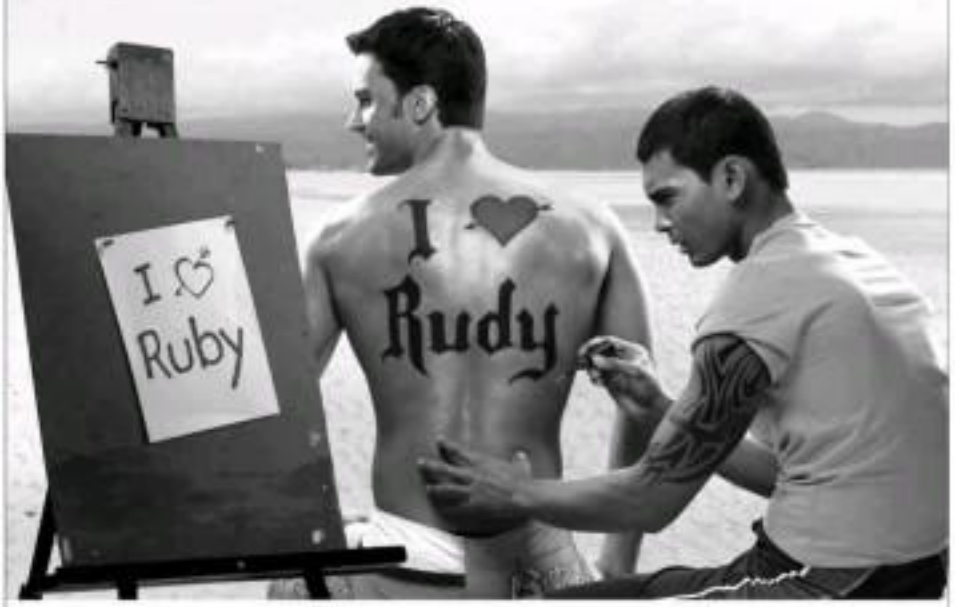
Opening the improved Main Taxiway Charlie 6 means air traffic flow from the airport's main runway and its terminals has normalized, said Jose Angel Honrado, general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority.

Now that the segment has been upgraded, the taxiway would no longer have to be closed every now and then for repairs. Moreover, it can now accommodate wide-bodied aircraft.

The taxiway was closed five months ago for major rehabilitation due to problems with the flexible or asphalt pavement, which resulted in depressions and potholes.

Charlie 6, along with the nearby Hotel 1, carries the biggest concentration of load during peak hour traffic, and asphalt repairs had become almost required and no longer economical. Jeremy Andig

Rudy or Ruby? Better have your eyes checked!



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BALLOT boxes are brought to Commonwealth Elementary School in Quezon City for today's political exercise. RAFFY LERMA

4,000 incumbents in today's barangay polls face ouster

From page A1

Mids approved the request of municipal officials to delay the elections in the two barangays because most of their residents were still in evacuation centers and the floodwaters would make it impossible for them to go to their polling stations.

The elections today are expected to fill 671,000 elective posts in 42,029 barangays across the country.

Thirteen positions are to be filled in each barangay—eight in the barangay council (one barangay chair and seven councilmembers) and eight in the SK council (one SK chair and seven SK councilmembers).

More than 50 million (51 [illegible] (58 and above) are eligible to vote in the barangay elections and 2.46 million (28 to 17 years old) in the Sangguniang Kabataan balloting.

Barangays are authorized by law to disburse some P10 billion for local economic development projects and services under the 1991 Local Government Code. Their leaders are as judges in domestic disputes, supervise delivery of basic services and ensure neighborhoods.

Unlike in last May's [illegible] national elections, tasting and counting of ballots in today's polls will be done manually.

On the eve of the elections, President Aquino called on the people to vote so he cannot claim that today's polls would be peaceful and orderly.

"This is an important chance for us to strengthen our barangay, the branch of government that first provides service to our people," he said.

Mr. Aquino is expected to be in his home province of Tarlac today where he will be casting his vote at Central Azucarera El[illegible]ementary School, his deputy spokesperson Abigail Valte said in a radio interview.

Even if today is a national holiday, Mr. Aquino is expected to hold meetings with Cabinet members after he votes in Tarlac, according to Valte.

To effectively deal with "vote[illegible]violence," the Comelec issued Resolution No. 9027, directing all barangay board of canvassers to put on hold any proclamation of winning candidates on the 2013 list.

Multiple winners

The resolution also said that a hearing on disqualification cases against the "multiple winners" would be set immediately and be "summary in nature."

"The means that there will be no more witnesses, no more testimonies," Jimenez said. "There will only be consideration of memoranda or position papers."

The Comelec is expected to come out with tabulation three days after the votes shall have been cast or "within the week," he added.

In multi-votes of "multiple winners" candidates in the respective barangays, no ammunition will be provided on the list of candidates attached to either the ballot secrecy[illegible] or tables where they will be filling out their ballots.

The names of candidates found on the list will be announced as winners will be aware that there is a [illegible] hanging over their candidacy and if they happen to win, their proclamation will be suspended until such time that they are cleared," Jimenez said in [illegible].

Voters should watch out for [illegible] beside the names of candidates found to be "multiple winners" to ensure that their votes would not end up as stray votes, he advised.

Should there "multiple winners" and ballots are still in the classroom, the Comelec will suspend the proclamation until they have completed the process of counting their names.

Interim officials

If the suspension of proclamation has not been lifted by Nov. 30, the Comelec will direct the DILG to appoint acting interim officials to take the place of the winning candidates, whose names has not yet been cleared, Jimenez said.

"We anticipate that as of 2 p.m. yesterday the delivery of election paraphernalia to election sites was 'close to 100 percent.'

"We are very optimistic that we will have regular elections in the whole country except for those areas affected by the volcanic [illegible]," he said.

The poll body, nevertheless, has prepared contingency measures should it decide to postpone the elections in some towns.

Voting hours

The measures include delaying the elections to Sunday or canceling election hours in some places. Polling precincts will accommodate voters from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. today.

But the election period will be extended according to the number of hours of delay in problematic areas, said Jimenez.

Earlier yesterday Comelec officials said only the towns of Dinalupat, Hermosa and Maramaya in Bataan, which were hit hardest by the typhoon, would hold the elections at a later time.

The Comelec was still studying whether it also would postpone the elections in seven towns in Tarlac, Aloa, Mt. Pinatubo and Capas.

"These are four other provinces where there are a lot of reports of impassable roads and unusable facilities so some are still being used as evacuation centers," Jimenez said yesterday afternoon.

"We are monitoring the situation there on a 24-hour basis," he said. With a report from Christine O. Avendaño

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TEACHERS double-check the election paraphernalia inside the ballot boxes at Typhoon-hit Isa Damian Elementary School. ARCHIVE / TOTO LOZA

SK polls today may be the last

THE SANGGUNIANG Kabataan (SK) elections today may be the country's last if senators will have their way. They claim that these youth councils have become a drain on government resources and a breeding ground for bad politics.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and Sen. Edgardo Angara said Congress would push for the "removal" of the SK after today's elections.

"Having too many elections is costly. Let's economize. The President wanted to continue with the elections but there was a unanimous decision to do away with councils have become a drain on government resources and a breeding ground for bad politics.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and Sen. Edgardo Angara said Congress would push for the "removal" of the SK after today's elections.

"Having too many elections is costly. Let's economize. The President wanted to continue with the elections but there was a unanimous decision to do away with councils, including removal of SK elections," Enrile said on Arthur Nicola Regado.

Enrile pointed out that youth leaders were introduced to Bicol political activities through the SK. "We cannot allow corruption to undermine the youth councils."

Angara said the SK leaders could be "lobbied into" the barangay council which will have youth representatives.

"This very law can take away with having a separate election for SK leaders and save money," he said.

Enrile said a number of local government leaders had suggested that the SK be abolished and replaced by youth representatives elected in the provincial, city and municipal boards.

Enrile has taken the idea further by suggesting that barangay elections be abolished with the mayor tasked with designating their town leaders for each barangay.

"The barangay elections have destroyed the unity of our communities. You campaigned. Peace and order problem, transportation partnership and social development in their town and mayor of the county with the system," Enrile said. AJC Cabacungan Jr.

DENR to declare more mineral reservation sites

By Kristine L. Alave

THE AQUINO administration is a bid to raise more revenues from the mining industry plans to declare more areas as mineral reservations in the provinces.

Environment Secretary Ramon Paje said he had ordered the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) to identify more regions that could be placed under the mineral reservation classification.

Declaring an area a mineral reservation would compel a mining firm to pay higher royalties. This will generate more non-tax revenue for the government, Paje said.

"Currently the government gets only 2 percent share of gross sale from mining operations in areas covered by mining agreements in the form of the excise tax," he said.

7 percent gov't share

The government, however, will get an additional 5 percent in royalties "if the mining operations are held in declared mineral reservation areas, for a total of 7 percent," the environment secretary said.

At present, nine mineral reservations have been declared throughout the country. These are found in Baras-Nueve, Zambales, Bislacan, Camarines Sur, Samar Island, Surigao del Norte, Compostela Valley, Davao Occidental, Davao del Sur and Cotabato areas throughout the country.

Section 3 of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, or Republic Act No. 7942, provides that "when national interest so requires, such as when there is a need to preserve strategic raw material for industry critical to national development or certain minerals for scientific, cultural or ecological value, the President may establish mineral reservations upon the recommendation of the director of the BMB through the DENR. Department of Environment and Natural Resources) necessary."

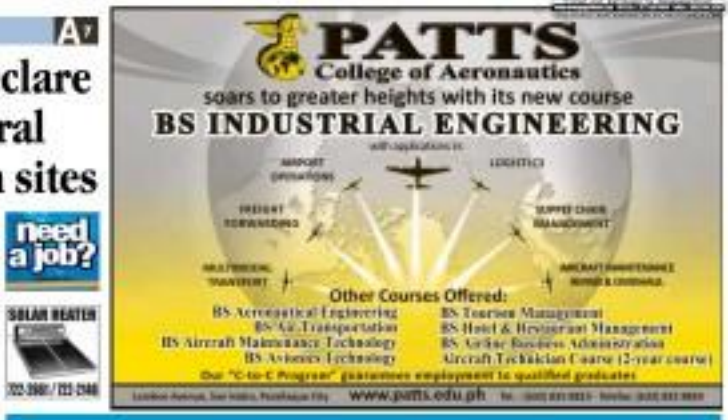
Sunrise sector

The government considers the mining industry a sunrise sector. According to the BMB, the country's metallic mineral investments grew to the first half of 2010, with production value soaring by 51 percent to P89.83 billion.

In its research report, the DENR said the increase in value from P32.92 billion in 2009 was aided by healthy prices and strong demand for minerals in the world market.

It expected demand to pick up in the latter half of the year as the global economy recovers from the recession.

"In the local scene, new mining investors continued to manifest interest in the government premise in its commitment to sustain the growth and development of the minerals industry," the DENR's first semester report said.



THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, October 25, 2010
29th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Eph 4:32-5:8
Gospel: Lk 13:10-17

Jesus was teaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath and a crippled woman was there. An evil spirit had kept her bent for eighteen years so that she could not straighten up at all. On seeing her, Jesus called her and said, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." Then he laid his hands upon her and immediately she was made straight and praised God.

But the ruler of the synagogue was indignant because Jesus had performed this healing on the Sabbath day and he said to the people, "There are six days in which to work; come on those days to be healed and not on the Sabbath."

But the Lord replied, "You hypocrites! Does not each one unless his ox or his donkey on the Sabbath and leads it out of the barn to give it water. And here you have a daughter of Abraham whom Satan had bound for eighteen years. Should she not be freed from her bonds on the Sabbath?"

When Jesus said this, all his opponents felt ashamed. But the people rejoiced at the many wonders that happened through him.

Commentary:

"The official said... there are six days on which to work; come during those days to be healed, not on the sabbath."

It is so easy to put human laws that conform to human rules and circumstances above the law of God to do good above all else—even when it means not keeping the rules of the officials who made them.

Battle over lump sums still on, say party-list solons

COLMENARES

By TJ Burgonio
and Marlevinne D. Reris
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BY HANDLING P15 million in additional funds to party-list lawmakers, Union leaders should not expect them to drop their opposition to the massive infrastructure/P15 billion-conditional cash transfer (CCT) program and P35-billion public-private partnership program (PPPP) under the 2011 national budget.

"It should not be quid pro quo," Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares said by phone. "We will continue to battle the lump sums under whatever circumstance as long as the budget is alive."

Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. has agreed to grant P15 million in road users' tax proceeds to party-list members and an additional P50 million in infrastructure funds to regular lawmakers, on top of the P70-million annual pork-barrel development funds starting next year, according to lawmakers.

Colmenares maintained that both the CCT and PPPP were lump sum appropriations that were "vulnerable to corruption" and run counter to President Aquino's "zero-based budgeting." That seeks to justify every item in the budget.

The House approved on second reading the P1.645-trillion budget on Oct. 13, keeping the funds for the big-ticket CCT and PPPP intact despite attempts by several lawmakers to realign portions for other items.

Proposed realignments

The lawmakers haven't given up, and hoped to introduce their proposed realignments on the floor between now and when both the senate and the House convene the bicameral conference committee to reconcile their versions.

Belmonte rejected some party-list lawmakers' clamor for additional P5B million to infrastructure funds earlier granted to regular lawmakers, but said they could avail themselves of P50 million in PTI million from the proceeds of the road users' tax.

Section 7 of Republic Act No. 8794 provides that money collected from road users' tax can be earmarked solely and used exclusively for road maintenance and improved road drainage, installation of adequate and efficient traffic lights and road safety devices, and air pollution control.

SOLIMAN

Whether Malacañang would eventually grant the P15 million is irrelevant for now, according to Colmenares. "Whether they grant it or not, we will continue to endorse any request for funding from local officials or concerned agencies. And we hope the agency will not hold on to money, and not on the sidelines," he said.

Pork barrel hores

Abhayan Rep. Walden Bello said that the party-list group had rejected outright the P5B million and P35 million in extra funds. "Those are two forms of pork barrel," he said by phone. "We feel that pork barrel goes against what we're elected for, which is to eliminate pork barrel."

Bello believed that the demand for more development funds had been fueled by the discovery of former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's P1.3 billion "pork barrel" in Pampanga.

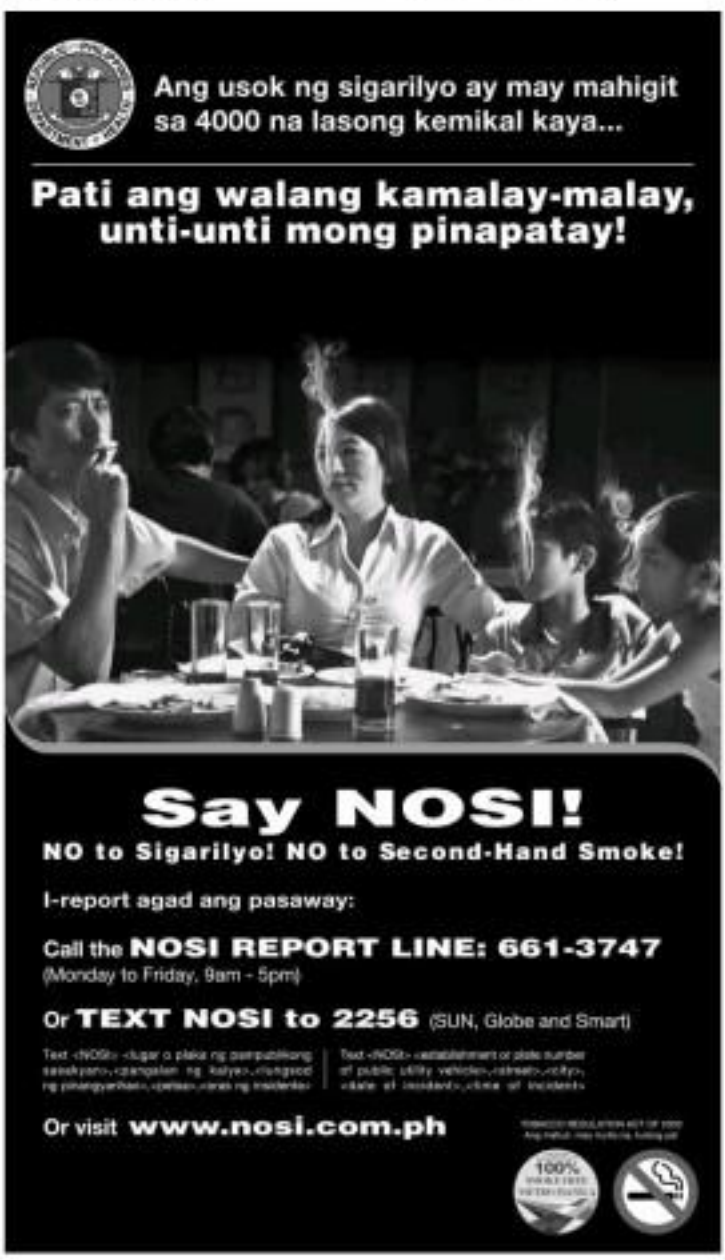
In Puerto Princesa City, Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman defended on Saturday her department's P84 billion budget next year for the CCT as centerpiece poverty-alleviation program of the Aquino administration.

"They (some congressmen) think it is so big, but it is not, ... and we have to pass through the eye of the needle to get it approved by Congress. I appeal to Congress to take a look at the government of the poor—the Asia, the Third Asia of Pakistan. Because if you take it from their perspective, it becomes so much less," Soliman said during a road show to promote the project.

Arroyo early this week took the floor during plenary deliberations in Congress to question the capacity of the DSWD to implement the CCT program with its rapid increase in the budget, even as she clarified that the program itself was launched by her administration.

Soliman said the scaling up of the program to Bulacan would benefit another 4 per cent from the 15 government's millennium challenge facility and would benefit close to 20,000 families in 15 municipalities.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has lined up provincial road shows to launch the project throughout the country, with Pangasinan being the 5th region to receive the program.



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Another P-Noy executive order challenged

From page A1

history, unreasonable and for violation of substantive due process."

Senate inquiry

Mr. Aquino signed the directive on Sept. 6 after a Senate inquiry into GOCCs and GFIs found that the salaries, bonuses and other incentives of their executives and employees far exceeded those of other government officials and staff.

In 2009, for instance, former SSS Chair Thelma Cristanano got from Union Bank P15.4 million in profit share, which was on top of the P1.56 million in per diem and other forms of allowance he received from the bank, according to the Senate finance committee.

Former SSS president Romulo Neri and SSS director Josefa Aguinaldo, now a Lepay representative, also received the same amount of profit share.

Until Dec. 31

"The grant of allowances, bonuses, incentives and other perks to members of the board of directors/trustees of GOCCs and GFIs, except reasonable per diems, is hereby suspended until Dec. 31, 2013, pending the issuance of new policies and guidelines on the compensation of these board members," the executive order said.

DO 7 does not cover the 13th month bonus of executives and employees. Neither does it cover at least 27 GOCCs whose compensation is being fixed and classified by the board of directors by virtue of their charters.

WHAT WENT BEFORE: 3 executive orders, 3 challenges

PRESIDENT Aquino issued three executive orders on July 30, and all three have been challenged in the Supreme Court.

From after Order No. 1 created the Philippine Truth Commission, a body that will "investigate records of graft and corruption of such scale and magnitude that shock and offend the moral and ethical sensibilities of the people."

The commission was formed to investigate the corruption scandals that occurred during the nine-year administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, now a Pampanga representative.

On Aug. 12, Arroyo allies in the House of Representatives filed a motion for certiorari and prohibition in the high court, asking for the commission's order to be nullified.

Presumed allies Iskol Lagman, Rodolfo Mitra, Simeon Datumanong and Orlando Fua said the executive order was not only "unconstitutional and invalid" but also "an arrogation of legislative."

Earlier that same week, Assistant Justice Secretary Jose Adolfo de Castro and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority director Edita Tamayo-Jeng sought to invalidate Mr. Aquino's Executive Order No. 2 and Executive Order No. 3.

De Castro and Tamayo-Jeng both questioned EO 2, which marked the so-called midnight appointments of former, while Dr. Tamayo-Jeng opposed EO 3.

EO 2 is described in Aquino's EO 003, which authorizes only government lawyers the rank of assistant secretary-level or above (Career SES).

De Castro said he filed the petition to protect his right to work and his status as a member of the civil service. He said EOs 2 and 3 were "unconstitutional and evidently tainted with grave abuse of discretion."

Surrounding argued that he couldn't be considered a midnight appointee as he was reappointed on March 1 or 10 days before the ban on midnight appointments took effect.

On Aug. 17, the Supreme Court said it would not issue a temporary restraining order against any of the three EOs, saying there was "no necessity" to do so.

On Oct. 12, the high court granted the petition of the Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales and Commissioner Rex Manuel Gutierrez, which sought to stop the implementation of EO 2.

The court resolved "to require the parties to observe the status quo prevailing before the issuance of Executive Order No. 2."

The high court ordered that the order covered only Lachica.

Mr. Aquino appealed the tribunal of blocking his program of reforms. *Inquirer Research*

Source: Inquirer Archives

The order created a Task Force on Corporate Compensation that will review compensation granted to members of the board, officers and rank-and-file employees of GOCCs and GFIs.

The task force will submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the President within 90 days from issuance of the order.

In issuing the directive, Mr. Aquino cited a Malacañang order, Presidential Decree No. 985, and Congress' Joint Resolution No. 4 of 2009, as bases.

But Galicia pointed out that PD 985 had been repealed by PD 1597 (signed by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1978) and by the enactment of Republic Act No. 6758, or The Compensation and Position Classification Act of 1989.

He said those laws gave the boards of GOCCs final authority in determining fringe benefits, allowances, bonuses and other financial packages that they deemed right for their officials and employees.

He claimed that the joint Senate and House resolution could not be used as legal basis "because it has not yet become a law" since it has yet to be published in a newspaper.

More resolution

Galicia noted that the resolution was not "a mere resolution" but a "concurrent resolution" requiring the concurrence of the members of Congress."

He said EO 7 "involves the determination and discretion as to what the law shall be and is therefore invalid for its usurpation of legislative powers."

"By issuing such executive order, President Aquino prescribes a policy as to how the GOCCs should go about their fiscal prerogatives," Galicia said.

He added that also President "arbitrarily exercised control over" the GOCCs and "undermined their fiscal autonomy."

Aside from the President, also named respondents in the petition were Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa and Budget Secretary Florencio Abad.

SC urged to forgo sanctions against UP law professors

From page A1

ered to impose sanctions on 37 UP law professors, including law dean Marvic Leonen, after they sharply criticized Associate Justice Mariano del Castillo for supposed plagiarism.

Regalia, a former UP professor, said Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno should heed his own words when he said that the court "would not be moved by passing passion of the point."

"That's good advice even to the Supreme Court," Regalia said.

He said the high court should focus on the impeachment case of Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez, the commissioners of the Philippine Truth Commission and questions on President Aquino's policy decisions.

Lawyer Romulo Macalintal said that the sentence and the public should be "guided by the resolution of the high court, which showed 'fealty to the constitutional provision on due process' by giving the professors an 'opportunity to be heard.'"

He reasoned that all parties should await the tribunal's decision with subtlety, and said they should it find the professors' explanation plausible. The Supreme Court would rule in the professors' favor.

"This is one issue where we are confident not to be misled by reason and not by passion or any personal biases. When [the Supreme Court] decides, that becomes part of the law of the land," he said in a text message.

Wait for verdict

Aragon said he was glad that the professors would abide by the resolution of the high tribunal and file their comment.

"And until and unless such comment is filed and the SC decides on the issue, the better position is to wait for the final verdict," he said.

The court last week ordered the UP law professors to explain why they should "not be disciplined as members of the bar" for violating certain canons of the Code of Professional Responsibility for Lawyers.

The professors had demanded the resignation of Associate Justice del Castillo over charges of plagiarism.

The court had earlier dismissed the plagiarism case filed against Del Castillo by lawyers Harry Roque and Romel Bagares for "lack of merit."

The lawyers charged that Del Castillo copied the works of three international legal experts in the April 26 ruling on the Pimentel et al. v the Executive Secretary et al. case in a breach of ethics and high moral standards of conduct.

Not contemptuous

The case was a separation suit filed by the couples' second son against his father to force a public apology for the sexual abuse perpetrated by Japanese forces in World War II.

Deputy Media Rep. Nazi Colmenares, one of the lawyers of the National Union of People's Lawyers, said he didn't expect the court to cite the professors for contempt.

"Their action was not contemptuous of the court. They were merely speaking out on an issue. Otherwise, all of us—from the President down to everybody—are guilty of this," Colmenares said by phone.

Should the court cite the professors in contempt, this would have a "chilling effect on students whom they are teaching not only to become lawyers, but to uphold.

Carlito Rep. Hipolito Bautista said justices who concurred with Del Castillo in his decision should inhibit themselves from the case if the UP professors file the writ of certiorari.

Let good sense prevail

Bryan Ackerman, a professor of law and political science at Yale University, expressed hope that "good sense prevails and leads to some sober second thought from the Court enough."

Ackerman said in a tweet that the lawyers he had read the Castillo decision and compared it to the sources that appeared in it.

"The opinion's use of these sources, without attribution, is obvious enough, and breaches basic professional norms. The justice's manipulation of the quotations to support his very different views on the matter is also obvious enough. Instead of using these sources 'without attribution,'" Ackerman said.

"Any effort to discipline the law faculty for bringing this matter to public attention would be extremely unfortunate, to say the understanding. The court's reputation in the international community," he said.

Ackerman is well-known to the international legal and political community and among the more frequently cited legal academics. BOB regrets it was Jill C. Gabrielson Jr., TJ Burgonio and Nikko Dizon

Aquino blunders may embolden adventurists

From page A1

hasn't and his cabinet has brought to the surface Mr. Aquino's immature fear of military coups.

Minor chaos a week after Malacañang signed Proclamation No. 53 on the amnesty grant, Trillanes pledged not to lead any coup in the future.

The pledge prompted presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda to say that "there's no such condition" in the amnesty. This was followed by a threat of the new Armed Forces chief of staff and major services commanders, all answerable first of all, to Aquino as the new Commander in Chief, that the AFP was solidly behind the President and that coups were a thing of the past.

Trillanes' statement was more revealing. "We are going to support this administration even if for the mandate from the people," he said.

He explained that support was not a condition for the regime administration. He said it did not guarantee that no other revolt would be staged against the government.

Unrepentant

Even if the pledge was written to stone, Trillanes said, it wouldn't guarantee that there no other revolt would follow suit. Any coup in the military, who would rise up against the administration.

"So, its ultimate guarantee is good governance," he said, the implication being that, as far as he was concerned, he was passing the government under probation for good behavior.

Trillanes appears unrepentant he had taken up arms against the government—an offense that in other political systems would have led to instant execution by a firing squad.

His attitude does not herald a smooth adjustment of Trillanes' mindset to civilian ways of doing things in a democratic and economically milieu once he is granted amnesty with concurrence of Congress, allowing him to take his seat in the Senate.

Like all the rest of the soldiers who staged coups against former President Cory Aquino from 1987 to 1989, Trillanes and his Oakwood cohorts disavowed that coups, as a method of political change, did not have a popular constituency in the Philippines.

None of the RAM coups led by Lt. Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, ever succeeded. When Honasan's RAM boys attacked Malacañang, military installations, including the AFP headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City, in Quezon City, and the Makati business district, the assailants from strategic centers did not bring civilians to rush in the streets in support.

The civilians, in their instinctive wisdom, knew that the soldiers, no matter what government they claimed drove them to revolt, acted to seize power for their own sake. The civilians were wise enough to know that since the rebels succeeded in grabbing power, they would install a dictatorship, worse than the flawed democratic regimes they had toppled.

The crowd that the coups attracted in the streets were killers and mercenary workers who were not passionate lovers of democracy or ardent foes of military juntas.

Public disapproval

When Trillanes and his mob seized the Oakwood apartments in Makati, they did not attract any sort of mass power or strategic communications center. They had calculated that if they had held the base even center long enough, they would muster mass support to leverage their demands.

The crowds never materialized. In the end, sensing that their coup did not have public support, they broke their siege and surrendered.

Opinion poll surveys have consistently shown that the public disapproved of coups as a means to change government.

In dealing with putschists and in considering amnesty to rebels, evidence is available in the often politically naive and inept Aquino administration that it does not have to appease recalcitrant and social groups to reinvigorate them into dreamers in society.

MAKABALO soldiers on their grievances at Oakwood hotel in Makati City on July 27, 2003.

The Ramon Magsaysay administration broke the back of the Huk insurgency in the 1950s with a tough military policy, side by side with reforms in abuses of the military and social reforms that mollified socioeconomic factors in peasants.

Declassified survey have consistently shown that the public disapproved of coups as a means to change government.

Public disapproval

When Cory Aquino took office after toppling Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship, she rode a tidal wave of public euphoria and acclamation that seemed her with blood legitimacy and enabled her to withstand seven coup attempts.

Squandered mandate

The rest widened the post-Marcos split as much, or even more, legitimacy than his mother. His legitimacy is based on an overwhelming mandate of a widely accepted free and honest election, not on extraconstitutional means such as people power.

With that mandate, Mr. Aquino can do almost anything and initiate change without the revolutionary powers of his mother in 1987. He has squandered it by dissipating time.

Mr. Aquino does not face a military rebellion, to continue to his mother who was immediately assailed by a series of coups. He has fewer reasons to worry about the loyalty of the military which has recognized the legitimacy of his electoral mandate.

The Honasen RAM rebel not only rejected Cory Aquino's legitimacy, but also actively attacked it before she could wrest it from the military's hands. Having his bid 180 days, he has not launched any initiative or program to move the nation forward beyond smashing platitudes. His legitimacy is a wasted asset.

It has already been eroded by an incredible display of impatience and incompetence in responding to a national emergency.

Before long, his upgrades by blunders will provide reasons for coup plotters to hatch conspiracies.

Jobless security guard wins Spain's siesta tilt

From page A1

first siesta championship.

Organizers on Saturday pre-served Pedro Soto Lopez, an unemployed security worker, the chainsaw for sleeping 17 minutes.

They said Lopez and sixty-plus sixandly bid this evening on Tuesday also regained 75 decibels—roughly the equivalence of the noise of some overwhelming traffic.

That earned the Ecuadorean extra points and enough to defeat the only other competitor to fall asleep for 16 minutes.

"Oh I am so happy to be the first champion," said a laughing Guillermo Lopez, who spotted a headphone pounds and a shop bar black movie techs.

He said he was a regular siesta taker, and it looked as if he was taking the title.

"My wife took me on this, but then they couldn't wake me up. Naturally, because I had before with the 7 rooms [£10] they had given me helped." Lopez said he would buy the 1,000-euro ($1,400) winning check.

Vanishing custom

The successful lawyer-to-work, nine-day contest that ended on Saturday was organized by the recently formed National Association of Friends of the Siesta and was open to anybody shopping small in Madrid's working class Carabanchel district.

The contest's aim? To promote a revival of this timeless custom so cherished with Spain but which some believe is in danger of vanishing because of the pressures of modern times.

"People are so stressed out they can't take naps any more," said Ramiro Lorens, the contest's spokesperson. "Studies show it's a healthy practice that no longer costs calories."

Each of the 160 nappers that took part in the contest got just one chair. There also were cots made of bamboo for snoring, odd sleeping positions and sleeping clothing provided.

Pulse-measuring device

Contestants in groups of five were given 20 minutes to lie down in public blue couches and hand by a doctor with a pulse-measuring device to determine how long they spent snoozing.

A judge perched on an umpire's seat awarded points for position and napping ability and speed.

"It's not a scientific study, after tours," said Ramiro St. Lorn Chavez, who came in the contest's finals. "But this is to encourage people to practice a healthy habit."

Chavez said that less than 30 percent of contestants managed to nod off, given the surrounding noise of giggling youths and parents screaming at their kids.

Loud, thumping pop-music provided continuous noise from the numerous discos in the area.

The only noise most upon pointed was the kisses the throat of a truck crowd, and eight naps were held per day.

'A great idea'

On Saturday, one young girl showed up in pads, beer t-shirt and pajamas and snuggled up to a known fancy bunny. An older man wore a Santa hat and had a cushion stuffed under his T-shirt.

Two Americans cruising in Madrid read about the contest on the Internet and were second and third place in their individual round.

"I think I fell asleep, but someone kept kicking my couch," said Anya Kidysh, 21, of Indianapolis. "We will sure go back to be the ambassadors for the siesta," she joked.

Ishtar Prosnorth, 23, from Dallas, said: "This is a great idea, but it's tough in a globalization and a tourist world kind to the end of the siesta."

Organizers said they planned a bigger championship next year and said they were like it abroad. AP

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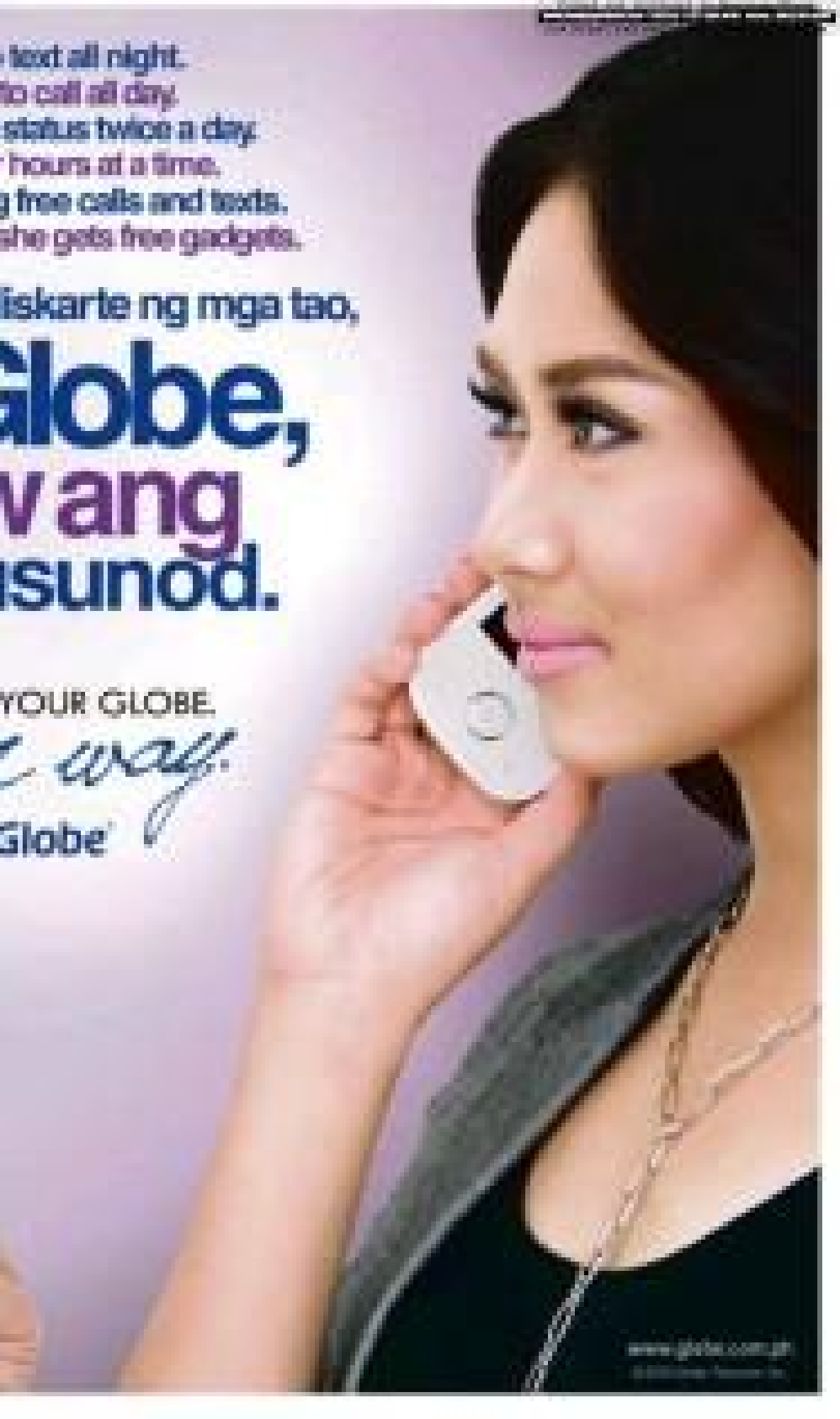
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OPINION

Blood and barangay

EDITORIAL

SOME 50 million voters troop to the polling precincts today to vote in the nationwide barangay and youth elections, their easy passed by a bloody trail of election-related brutality. In incident after violent incident that should shame the guns, goons and gold of the national elections last May, the run-up to today's elections—as many are seen in the country's 42,025 barangay units—has become bloodier and bloodier.

Since the campaign started Sept. 25, there has been a steady increase in violent incidents. Only last week, a barangay chair seeking reelection was shot dead by three men in Sariaya, Ilocos Norte. Earlier, another reelectionist barangay leader was ambushed and killed in Malabon City. Before that, three persons running for barangay posts were killed in Maguindanao. Violence and killings have also been recorded in Basilan and Sorsogon as well as some provinces of the Visayas.

So alarming has been the rise in election-violence statistics that President Aquino, who otherwise would not meddle in the concerns of the Commission on Elections, has ordered the Philippine National Police to quickly resolve cases of election violence and to tighten security in election hotspots around the country.

The potential for violence of the village elections—if the violence really hasn't erupted yet—could be seen from the number of violations of the Comelec gun ban, now numbering almost 550 with nearly 500 firearms confiscated. The ban will last until Nov. 10 when things are expected to have simmered down a bit. Unfortunately, since the elections are not automated, expect the canvassing of election returns and the proclamation of the winners to be a drawn-out chaos. Expect more violence during and after the elections.

Even the Comelec has expressed dismay and incredulity at the violence. "Unfortunately it looks like the number of election related [incidents of] violence could rise so we are asking the police to basically the gun ban," said Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez. He said that the potential for violence is great inasmuch as the contests are local and that the rivalries more intense and heated.

Another indication of the elections' potential for violence is the number of hotspots that have been placed under Comelec control. In Western Visayas, 315 villages have been declared election watch-list areas (IWAs); 218 of them in Bacolod City alone. Meanwhile, in the Caldabarzon area, which groups the Southeast Tagalog provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon, 71 villages have been placed under Comelec control. The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao has the biggest number of barangay units on the watch list—734. Overall, according to an assessment report by the PNP, a total of 2,633 barangay units are IWAs, about 6 percent of the nationwide total of villages.

What motivates the violence? The Department of the Interior and Local Government said it has allotted P81 billion through its internal revenue allotments (IRA) for the holding of the elections. In fact, 50 percent of the IRA for local governments goes to the barangay; this should somehow explain why the village elections are hotly contested, and candidates would go to violent lengths to win local positions.

Considering the panorama of violence breaking out from all corners of the archipelago, the PNP has said that the barangay election violence this year is lower compared to the 2007 barangay elections. The PNP attributed this to the stricter enforcement of the gun ban and the increased number of mobile checkpoints nationwide. We can only hope that the Comelec and the police would continue to tighten the security around the elections to forestall more violence or at the least, to hold the incidents of violence at a decent level. (If there's such a thing) so that the credibility of the democratic exercise would not be jeopardized.

As always, what is at stake is the soundness and robustness of Philippine democracy. In the din and blare of election rhetoric and election violence, when the smoke clears and the cacophony dies down, what will emerge, it is hoped, is the integrity of our democracy. In the meantime, this nation of small, often restless, villages—and, perhaps, of small minds—braces itself for the barangay election. Let the votes be cast.

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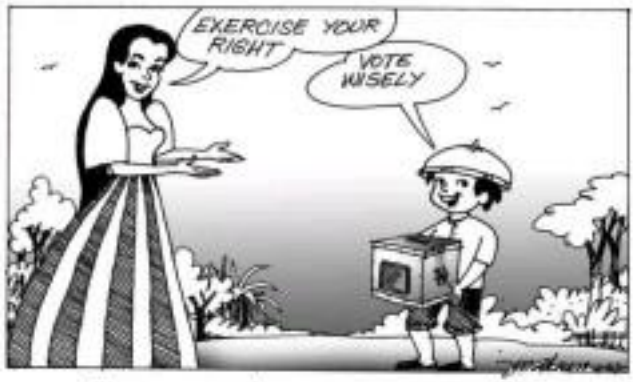

Barangay polls encourage squatting

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TODAY, FILIPINO voters will troop to the polling places to choose 41,037 barangay chairmen, 294,179 councilmen (*Sanguniel*) and as many Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) chairmen and committees. The government will spend at least P80 billion in taxpayers' money just to hold the elections and many, many billions of pesos more for the salaries of the chairmen and *kagawad* and for the internal revenue allotment (IRA) for the barangays. There's a lot of money but what has it done to our barangays or the nation as a whole?

Answer: Nothing, or very little, if any. On the contrary, it has encouraged politicians that believe in our corruptocracy. Just one example: the squatting problem.

Squatting has become one of the biggest headaches of the government, a problem that only gets bigger even as the government spends more and more tax money trying to solve it. The local officials, who are elected, are supposed to be the first line of defense against squatters. The villagers themselves and their officials are the first to see when squatters move into their communities. Barangay officials are duty-bound to prevent the squatters from establishing residence and the squatters from exerting their disaster before the squatting colony becomes too big.

But in most cases, it is the barangay officials themselves who encourage the influx of squatters. Why? Because squatters are voters, and barangay officials are dependent for their survival in the squatters themselves to vote for them or for congressional, gubernatorial, mayoral and other candidates. Many public and private properties have been invaded by squatters this way.

For example, a choice property of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) in Project 8, Quezon City, which is being eyed for development into a housing project for its members, cannot be cleared of squatters because the barangay captain is opposing the relocation of squatters. Why? Because he himself brought in those squatters, and he keeps getting elected because of the vote of those squatters.

Meanwhile, a 1,000 housing project just across the street from the squatter colony keeps being burglarized. Crooks who are doing the burglaries. Complaints to the barangay do not stop, or even lessen, the burglaries. Guess why.

Who keeps getting elected in barangay polls? In most cases, the undesirable people of the community: the drunkards, the gamblers, the shiftless, jobless "stand-bys" and the squatter-colliers. They are the ones who have the time to engage in endless drinking sessions with the powers-that-be in the adult-and-master points during the wakes of dead villagers, during which time they get acquainted with the other gamblers in the village who are also voters.

The jobless have also found out that being a barangay official is an easy way to earn a living. Hence the big number of candidates in every barangay election. The competition sometimes gets so heated that it erupts into violence, like they do in the national and local government elections.

And yet, the barangay polls are supposed to be non-partisan. But non-partisanship is a farce in barangay elections. The people think local politicians will let pass the opportunity to have their supporters elected to barangay positions so that they can help the politicians get themselves elected during the local elections? At least, many barangay captains become members of the sanggunian, vice mayor and mayor of their respective cities and municipalities, relying on the votes of the squatters they have brought to and coddled.

Truth to tell, corruption clear is a clear reflection of national and local government politicians has crept down to barangay politicians. Source of abuses by barangay officials are numerous. One source for example is that of a barangay captain of an affluent Makati barangay who misspent more than P100 million in barangay funds for excess lumpsum that were not installed and were purchased obviously only to collect the generous commissions.

Worse, corruption has also seeped down to the SK polls, as President Aquino himself said. The SK is supposed to make the youth learn the intricacies of government, but what they are learning is the dirt and corruption of politics. To use the words of the late Manila Mayor Arsenio H. Lamson, some of the SK officials are "so young but so corrupt."

Why, how? Because their elders teach them the dirty tricks of winning elections, such as vote-buying, using flying voters, cheating, etc. So what we are reaching our youth through the SK polls is not good governance but dirt.

Once elected, barangay and SK officials think of ways to get more money from taxpayers to enrich themselves. Some barangay captains illegal tax measures that duplicate taxes already being collected by city and municipal governments—a case of double taxation. Others ask for gross chemicals, effect, fuel allocations, opting the councilors of Quezon City and members of Congress. That is aside from the regular monthly salaries and OBA that they collect from the national and local governments.

Worst of all, some barangay officials victimize the very people whose votes helped put them in privileged positions. They collect rentals and fees from squatters for the privilege of squatting in their territories. Some also illegal connections to electric and water lines and collect payments from the squatters and pocket them for those "services." That is another reason squatter colonies progressively get bigger. Not only do they get free land problem-more votes, they also collect barangay officials to collect more money.

That is the reality behind the barangay and SK systems and abolish them.

Malice in Wonderland

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I JOIN the civilized world in being aghast at the Supreme Court's decision to get back at the UP professors who exposed the plagiarism done by one of its justices. The plagiarism was bad enough, an embarrassment to the very institution tasked to defend high standards in the vineyard, and smelly mud, suppose it seems, an attack on the very high-mindedness that institution is tasked to defend.

At the very least what's mud about it is that the plagiarism is real, it's not a figment. There is absolutely no doubt, as dissenting justices Antonio Carpio, Conchita Carpio Morales and Maria Lourdes Sereno show, that Abelardo de Castillo borrowed, without attribution, from books where he penned his decision against the condom women. One of the plagiarized authors, Irene Cabiles, has himself already lamented the deed, probably finding no legal expressions for the expletives that spring to his mind upon being reminded of it.

The last time I wrote about this, I said that if the issue were merely the purloining of some body else's words, then Del Castillo's plagiarism was not the worst in the world. That is not because stealing is justifiable, regardless of sin, including speech-deliverers who use other people's words without attribution to upgrandeur themselves, *pinoyism de rue*. Buildings do not normally become best-sellers, nor are they intended to. They enter into the law books and into into their world immortalized by an unsurprising lawyer-ising procedures.

Even so, the plagiarism does not become any less plagiarism. You copy somebody else's words, it pass them off as yours. Even if plagiarism, it doesn't matter whether you do it out of carelessness or not. It doesn't matter whether you do this in bad faith or not. It doesn't matter whether you do it out of spite or not. You do it, you plagiarize. The notion that plagiarism becomes plagiarism only when it is done with malice aforethought is the craziest thing I've heard law as a legal knight, it will go down there as a new joke.

There's really no excuse for it. A student who plagiarizes ought to be deserted. A justice who does it ought to be hanged. Metaphorical, you'd correct.

But it goes further, which is where mere plagiarism ends and literal begins.

In fact, Del Castillo did not just purloin somebody else's words, he perverted them. He not only passed them off as his own, he used them to propose the very opposite of what the author intended. Cabiles used those words to argue that not slavery is a crime against humanity, but which states are still within their rights to seek restriction. Del Castillo used those exact same words to argue that not slavery is not a crime against humanity for which states are not required to seek restriction.

If that is not malice, what is?

Even if you simply go by the Supreme Court's hairy definition of what constitutes plagiarism, you will still find that Del Castillo's brain's proposition constitutes plagiarism, and in ways that add whole new dimensions to plagiarism. Talk of the devil quoting Scripture to suit his purpose. It's bad enough that a justice rips off a fellow in the profession, it's worse that he screws him over.

And that's nothing compared to what he's done to the countless women who have been, than perversion of Cabiles's words was the premise for denying them a crack at justice, a chance to get back a little of what they lost, an opportunity to right a humongous historical wrong. If that is not malice, what is?

All the professors were calling for was for Del Castillo to resign or be held in contempt by the public. They weren't calling for him to disembowel himself, though heaven knows that is what people of honor do in Japan. They weren't calling for him to shoot himself in the head, which was what people of honor do in Europe. They weren't calling for him to hang himself, for hell, with things doubled with guns thanks, though heaven knows that is what people of honor do in this country on Good Friday. Being natives to the least of lethal justice calls for, being natives to the least of a justice just for.

He refused. In fact, not only refused to resign, he did the opposite, much as he had done before. He got the Supreme Court to threaten to rebuke the UP professors legal admonishment unless they could show cause not to do so. The court, in other words, told the UP that the Court "does have to monitor what "happens" to its decisions. The wise things are, it just looks like, "Lucky Me." "My apologies to "Lucky Me."

How come? Because, me, the professors opined, that Del Castillo did not, the one that more than dealt out dead the neighbors with and raze his use, by exposing a particularly ribbon, though metaphorical, case of it? Because, two, they lived to help the Supreme Court avoid a law worse than death, which is the reputation of being just another institution that can find no legal thought in their heads? Because, three, they defended the law of the land, the law of the land, the law of every organ in the human body short of the ear, or in hole, that says a justice is there to give comfort to the afflicted and not to discomfort the comfort women enjoyed?

The lawyers seem that this could have a chilling effect on this country. So, it won't. What it will have is a laughable effect. What it will have is a humiliating effect. What it will have is a pitiful effect. Nobody will get to wonder who's going to hold this country hostage now. Solicitor Mendoza already did that with a busload of tourists, carrying for us the news of the world. The Church already did that with communications, causing for bids the fate of the faithful. And now the Supreme Court has done it, running for law the chiquis of the masses. Here in this Wonderland.

What is not malice, what is?

Religion and the RH bills

LET RH get back to religion in the RH bills because it is mainly religion which is causing much of the disagreement.

There are two clauses in the Constitution dealing with religion: the non-establishment clause and the free exercise clause.

The non-establishment clause is a command which says that the state may not choose any religion as the dominant religion. (Incidentally, as I have often pointed out, this command is addressed to the state and not to churches.)

The free-exercise clause means more than just the freedom to worship. It means the freedom to act or not to act according to what one believes. And this freedom is violated when one is compelled to act against one's belief or is prevented from acting according to one's belief.

In our society, while people of good faith may find many similarities in the matter of abortion as defined in the Penal Code, there already is sharp division in the matter of contraception. The division is drawn largely along religious lines. The official Catholic teaching, for instance, is that only natural family planning is allowed, even if I am aware that many Catholics do not follow this teaching. The refugees of many wars (Cambodia, however, practices a different set of rules on sex and morality. And, as much as Catholics, they too have the right of moral equality and morals freedom under our democratic system.

At the moment, the government, through the supervision of the Department of Health, makes contraceptive pills and devices available without distinction as to whether those who would avail them are of them are Catholics or non-Catholics. We are assured by the Palace that President Aquino is free in his decision not to stop what the DOH is doing. The President is also free to ask the Congress to exercise responsible parenthood in accordance with their moral beliefs. Clearly, the President may not, on religious grounds, stop people from acting

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according to their moral beliefs if their acts are not also prohibited by law not limited to public welfare. I would also add that the President is not duty-bound by Catholic teaching to ensure Catholic teaching, for a pluralist society requires that government must give the common good of the country not only according to the prohibition of whatever religion may be the majority but also according to the effective good of all the members of the community, including those belonging to minority religions. For that reason it is good that the President has invited other religions to the dialogue.

It understand, however, that since there is as yet no law on the subject, some local officials do not allow local officers to dispense contraceptive devices.

In rendering the RH bills, we have to ask if they contain provisions which have the effect of requiring persons to act against their religious or moral beliefs. The law would be particularly harsh if it carries administrative or criminal penalties. It would offend against religious persecutions by the government. If there are such offending provisions, I propose that remedies be incorporated that will allow freedom of action to our who objects on the basis of personal conscience.

I make special mention of any provision which punishes those who disagree with or campaign against provisions they do not agree with. Such provision would smack of dictatorship which has no place in our democratic system.

I also make mention of the requirement of sex education. Sex education is a matter closely related to religious morality. Our Constitution allows the teaching of religion to children in public schools, but it requires that it be done only with the written consent of parents. A similar respect for the choice of parents should be provided for in the reproductive health law. The Constitution says: "The natural and primary right and duty of parents in the rearing of the youth for civic efficiency and the development of moral character shall receive the support of the Government."

Is the sex education in private schools, any law on this should require attendance freedom, which is also protected by the Constitution.

I have also scanned the penal provisions of the proposed law. My initial impression is that, if passed, they will encounter problems in implementation along the lines of criminal due process. Government cannot declare what is morally right any more than it can declare what is selfevidently acceptable, except to the extent needed to protect life, health and security of citizens or to safeguard compelling state interests.

It might be argued that, since all that is based on the majority of the legislature, the law is that human acts nonexistent almost every dimension—physically, intellectually and morally. But respect even tells us that regimes which do not honor the equality of persons become oppressive and end up imposing untold suffering on people.

Finally, it is not difficult to recall that, while (at least as to religious liberty) is theologically founded and ecumenical, theology is not the only reason for adherence to the principle. There are additional reasons. In fact it has been said that limitation: It's affirmation of religious liberty in Vatican Council Declaration "stems not mainly from historical experience as by theology. He who have not experienced massive religious persecution must learn from the lessons of history.

More notes on the Bells of Balangiga

IN AN earlier column on the bells, I mentioned that in September 1901 the church bells of Balangiga, a small fishing village in the northern end of Samar, were used to signal the start of an attack by Filipino rebels on an American garrison stationed in the town. The attack took place not long after the regiment was given marching orders to the Philippines. The Filipinos killed more than half of the American troops belonging to "C" Company 9th Infantry.

In retaliation, a punitive expedition was mandated—fairly ferocious. Brigades were formed with instructions to kill everyone over the age of 10 and to turn Samar into a "howling wilderness." The officer in command, Brig. Gen. Jacob Smith, would later become court-martialed and forced to retire from the US Army.

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

During the course of the campaign, 15 bells of the 54 originally "appropriated" by the church bells of Balangiga and shipped from Samar as war trophies. They are kept at Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming, with Americans arguing that the bells are part of the spoils of war.

A few months ago, I received an interesting letter from Johnny Jarque, former Philippine ambassador to Hungary, Czechoslovakia, India, Nepal and the Republic of Korea (ROK). The letter was accompanied by communications he had sent from Korea to the Department of Foreign Affairs regarding one of the bells.

Ambassador Jarque's memorandum (dated Aug. 27, 2001) to the foreign secretary reads:

"Concerning the Balangiga bell reportedly brought to the Republic of Korea by the US 9th Infantry Regiment, I am pleased to report that the said bell was located by the Philippine Embassy and Armed Forces Attaché (AFA), Col. Hosmilo O. Bernardo and two of his staff at the office of Lt. Col. Isaac Jones, Commander of the 9th Infantry Mechanized Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division, US Forces in Korea, at Camp Henry, SOK. Enclosed are two pictures—one of the bell, and the other a picture of the 9th US Infantry Regiment and inscription on the Balangiga bell, taken by the DOE staff."

The report of Colonel Bernardo to Ambassador Jarque indicated that the bell was part of the unit's memorabilia and apparently stayed with the 9th Infantry wherever the unit was assigned.

Unfortunately, the report of Ambassador Jarque failed to elicit any response from the DFA. It would be interesting to find out who was the head of the Office of American Affairs at the DFA on September 2001. Either the officer concerned was too busy with other matters or was completely ignorant about the significance of the bells.

Alongside the bell at Camp Henry in Korea was a marker with the following inscription:

"Ninth United States Infantry Regiment
Philippine Campaign
The Bell of Balangiga

"The Bell of Balangiga originally hung in the Bell tower of a Church in the village of Balangiga, Samar, Philippine Islands where its intended purpose was to signal the start of church services. On 28 September 1901 however, it was used to signal the start of an attack by Filipino insurgents on the command of Lucino Agninaldo to companies that surprise attack on the village of Balangiga and its garrison Company C, 9Ninth Infantry Regiment. The night before the attack, some three hundred insurgents who were dressed as women, entered the church with presents and food for the garrison. As the church until the following morning when by arrangement between certain village officials and the insurgents, the bell was rung as a signal to start the attack. In the ensuing savage fight, more than one half of the 74 men of Company C were killed or wounded. Of the 39 who were killed and only four of the remaining members escaped without wounds. Those members fought fiercely and killed approximately 250 insurgents by the time the battle was over and they were relieved by Company L, 38th Infantry Regiment. The people of Balangiga donated the bell to the Regiment when it sailed for home on 9 April 1901 and has been Regiment property ever since."

After Aninai was turned into a "howling wilderness," why would the people of Balangiga "donate" anything to the US Army?

Our thanks to Ambassador Jarque for keeping us posted on the whereabouts of one of the Balangiga bells.

* * *

For more than 10 years, it was known as the SEOC Operational Command Coordinating Council. Then to the wonderful delight of those responsible for its operations, it was given a bright idea of forming a new organization with the mind-boggling acronym NORMIC. If you don't know what it stands for, you're not alone. Just hope that when disaster strikes, whether it's a typhoon or an earthquake, the organization in the hell and high water will continue to be there. Unfortunately, our track record indicates that we are good to the beginning but after awhile, we become complacent and revert to old habits.

Are we prepared for earthquakes? We still need specialized equipment for digging out survivors from beneath the rubble of fallen buildings. Do we have enough trained men for this type of operation? Do we have sniffer dogs to help in the search for those who may be buried alive? The requirements are quite different from those needed during typhoons and heavy rainfall. During the last earthquake in 1990, we had great difficulty getting heavy equipment to Baguio. Therefore, we still have to rely on our own capabilities.

* * *

Reacting to my column "The unreachable lands of farming," former Rep. Gen. Ramon E. Mitra Jr., former chairman of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), sends me PCA fact sheet No. 178 (January 1988) titled "Coconut Pest Control." Here the US Treasury agent Elliot Ness' who's-who-not-to-be bribed and was an incorruptible ATF officer, Brig. Gen. Buenaventura C. Guerrero.

During President Diosdado Macapagal's administration, Guerrero, a member of PMA class 1954, was chief of the Police Integrity Division (PID) of the PC Criminal Investigation Service under the command of Col. Jose Maravilla. He was responsible for a successful anti-smuggling operation against blue seal cigarettes consigned to Lim Seratan of Cavite. Unfortunately, because of interference from high-placed persons, Lim Seratan was transferred out of the CIS and exiled to minor assignments.

During the early martial law years, Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile designated Guerrero as Head DC chief. In the campaign against illegal gambling, some members of Congress, government officials, PC officers and prominent citizens of Pasay City, Caloocan, Navotas and Malabon were jailed. But after awhile, jueteng and many forms of illegal gambling returned with a vengeance.

As I mentioned in the same column, we have good men in government service, but the monstrous corruption in illegal activities, which is the root cause of many problems, has made the current crop of "untouchables" the taken out of the game, others will rise to replace them. This is one of the reasons why I believe legalization of jueteng operations offers the best solution for the nation.

Free them

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

THE DESIGNATION OF Health Undersecretary Ilac Padilla, a known human rights lawyer, to head the government's peace panel to talks with the Nationalist Democratic Front is a much-welcome development—and a positive step toward the much-awaited resumption of the long-stalled talks involving the longest-running rebellion in the Asian region.

Thus the new panel members come from different parts of the country—two from Luzon, Padilla and lawyer Antonio Bautista; two from Mindanao, Undersecretary Leah Armamento and Jesuit priest Fr. Eliseo Mercado Jr.; and two from the Visayas, Teduray Datumanglang (a world security leader from Datoe Dalandal), and Jurgette Honculada (who is a long-time peace advocate and civil society leader from Zamboanga City)—is another welcome step specially at this crucial stage of the talks, where social and economic reforms issues are to be tackled.

It's also a most welcome relief that the Aquino administration discarded counter-to as a precondition for the resumption of the talks—a demand of the hardliners in the AFP, which is the previous Arroyo administration and the present one, most of us.

On one hand, the declared willingness of the NDF leadership to return to the negotiation table should be taken advantage of by the Aquino administration to push forward the peace and national reconciliation (all but forgotten story of government machinations, especially during the bloodstained Arroyo regime).

Admittedly, despite several political and legal maneuverings by the Arroyo administration in its own months, its huge political capital and clout, in some extent, is still intact. Thus, notwithstanding some criticisms of the administration's decision to grant a sweeping amnesty to soldiers involved in the controversial Oakwood incident in the past Arroyo administration, the move was generally well-noted by many.

However, as already pointed out by several concerned quarters, it is lamentable that the Aquino administration is apparently playing in

Do a JFK, President counseled

LETTERS

THE CATHOLIC Church has been spoiled by the past presidents with their severe abiding violation of the separation of church and state. Now it has come to the point of telling incumbent President Aquino what to do.

P-Noy should turn deaf ears to the...

Kennedy, the first Catholic ever to be elected president of a predominantly non-Catholic nation, the Sept. 12, 1960, short-of-televised-election, famously spoke before a huge audience gathered in Houston, Texas to tell his...

"I believe in an America where the separation of church and state is absolute—where no Catholic prelate would tell the President (should he be a Catholic) how to act, and no Protestant minister would tell his parishioners for whom to vote...where no church or church school is granted any public funds or political preference." (Robert R. Reilly, "Guidelines for Church-State Relations," Page E1)

Instead of being remembered by the Church, JFK was elected president of the United States of America.

—BENJAMIN E. BRAVO,
Seminar Compound,
Barangay Wawa,
San Pedro, Laguna

If you have any compliments, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of issues and places by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Bagtikan and Maocaling Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to No. 897-4502; 897-4598, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Reckless statement against Church

BY RENE Antonio Daroy, Oct. 5, column "Priests and bishops," she says the arrest and detention of Cardinal Gokim for the disruption of a religious ceremony inside the Manila Cathedral "speaks of Hugo's writings of Church's power and influence." She stated that the Cardinal has "disobeyed the ground in the arrest of public opinion."...

First, as a lay Catholic, I am deeply offended and insult the faith and of Cardinal. It was an insult on our Christian faith in the Philippines ground after Manila Cathedral. Cardinal did not embarrass the bishops there, it was he who made a fool of himself and should be the one embarrassed for his disregard of the sensibilities of others. I ask the entire deanery of our people to denounce his arrogance act.

The 1st obligation of a religious proceeding, he infringed on our personal inconvenience such as that in...who cares? Such regardless of religious affiliation. His action and inaction are fully justified as simply the years of course in the regular ordinary...

...name of the law, he having committed an offense in Superior. If he were not worth a day or two later, that would be unsentenced and illegal.

There is therefore contrary we have to say or support for such serious incursion to the ordinary processes of the law in children's case way up to...case of "trapping receipts" of the "power and influence of the Church." Such a sudden statement without any factual foundation betrays one's crude and repugnance toward our laws and the faith it represents...Catholicism.

That the Church "has offenses," by true the ground in the arena of public opinion" is a perception spawned by a massive dose of Catholic-bashing nowadays, particularly featured in the media to mention but one public aspect.

The Filipino people, the majority of Filipino citizens faithful to the Church.

—GEORGE C. DEL,
Complex for Clothes Fabrication,
for family and life,
Laguna Theater

De Quiros glossing over 'minor details'

CONRADO DE Quiros wrote in his Oct. 1-4 column that Rafael Alunan has been one of the legislators eager to punish him who would criticize media in person or by dubious every time they are pursued by media. That is of course true rights of reply bill..."

De Quiros, the obnoxious, has again falsified facts in his column. The Right of Reply bill was authored by the Senate Tri-Senate Academy (Senators Ramon Revilla and Francis Escudero). It was passed on third and final reading unanimously by 23 senators. No senator voted against the bill (not 20) any senator abstain. The entire Senate membership without exception voted to pass it, with 24 (Defend Senators; three San Montero Jinggoy, and as with Mr. Alunan).

Apparently, De Quiros reads only his column and does not bother to examine any research. Otherwise, a brief search would have revealed to him his own public legislative history of the Right of Reply bill. Unfortunately, De Quiros has developed a penchant for glossing over "minor details" such as the truth. Or worse perhaps, an inability or comprehension.

As Shakespeare example in the recent Senate investigation of the role media played in the international hostage-taking incident. At the outset, the Senate panel explained the difference between print and broadcast media. Print media is absolutely free of government control while broadcast media, such as radio and TV, operate under a legislative franchise, is governed by the renewal of the franchise. This has been true the world over since the advent of radio broadcasting 80 years ago. De Quiros, for all his intellectual pretensions, cannot understand the fundamental media operation's structure alone. The essential distinction that De Quiros has failed to grasp has existed in his confused take on the matter.

—EDSON A. CERCENIA,
chief counsel,
Office of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile

Growth Link ruling final

THE SUPREME Court is the issue of Section 8, Miguel 21 (Section, 18/12/10), regarding the SEC dismissal of the Supreme Court in Growth Link Inc. v. Court of Appeals, which has long since become final and executory.

Miguel has been writing the Court since 2003 regarding this case, and we have since denied all of his motions to "issue clarificatory requests, to issue, to issue unsolicited lists, however.

The Supreme Court has, time and again, emphasized the principle behind the finality of judgments. "Once a judgment has become final, the court cannot thereafter amend it in any way. Otherwise, there would be no end to litigation and would act to usurp the main role of courts of justice which is to assist in the enforcement of the rule of law and the maintenance of peace and order by settling justiciable controversies with finality."

And as the Court wrote first in the case of Growth Link, we likewise write this to Miguel's counsel is:

—JOSE MIDAS MARQUEZ,
court administrator,
Supreme Court of the Philippines

Policy over law?

TWELVE MONTHS have passed and yet I haven't been paid my pension for the months of November and December 2009 and January 2010. I am 79 years old, diabetic, hypertensive and suffering from chronic sinus pain. I have pleaded with the GSIS authorities that I be paid but my pleas have fallen on deaf ears.

To rub salt on my already profusely bleeding, wounded heart, I received a letter, dated June 2, 2010 from Marvelous Jesse D. Tenag, manager of GSIS Public Relations and Marketing Department (PRMD), informing me that I have lost my 15th month cash gift because I failed to renew my annual senior pension status. According to her, this is a policy of the GSIS. True enough, but I was able to renew my active status as a senior pensioner on Feb. 1, 2010 and to renew my regular pension in February 2010. I am old and I suffer from intermittent mental memory loss and senility. Must I be punished for with senior associated with old age?

My 15th month cash gift belongs to me as a matter of right. It is given to me by law to me not be taken away by a policy that is eminently cruel, oppressive and inhuman.

The GSIS was conceived and created to promote the well-being of government workers and pensioners. It was not intended to be an instrument of humiliation.

Will somebody please help me?

—GLICERIO G. PAPERABAL,
Purok 5, Dadiangas, Higaon City

Assistant Editor Tony Sta. Maria

Across the NATION

Delays in ballot arrival worry poll execs

BAGUIO CITY—Election officials and teachers reporting for today's barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections were all set for the synchronized polls in Northern and Central Luzon, but the delayed delivery of election materials in some towns has worried them.

In Cagayan Valley, which was hit hard by Supertyphoon Juan last week, election officials and teachers said they were concerned about how election materials would be delivered in villages hit by Juan and the power outage in most towns.

On Sunday, about 200 boxes of election materials for polls in the Ilocos capital of Ilagan, set aside repairing their typhoon-damaged houses to wait for election materials in the local treasury office.

Duty

"It is our duty to work during election days as we have to set aside repairing our houses or cleaning the mess left by the typhoon," said teacher Alfredo Cassada.

Only the commercial area of Cagayan City has reported to be stable power supply a month after the typhoon ravaged the province.

"We hope that everything will be put into order during election day as the Commission on Elections on Juan has imposed an earlier 5 a.m. to 3 p.m. voting period instead of the 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. schedule," said Epigenio Manigat, Cagayan City election officer.

She said some of the city's 68 villages are remote and do not have power supply.

Isabela election supervisor Manuel Castillo said policemen and soldiers have been sent to villages in the province to ensure an orderly conduct of the elections.

Isabela police chief Senior Supt. Jimmy Rivera Jr. said he has suspended vacation leaves and asked all policemen in the province to report for duty.

In Abra, ballots and other poll paraphernalia arrived at the Comelec office in the capital Bangued at 9:25 a.m. yesterday, and were immediately sent to 18 towns, except Tineg.

Vanessa Pascual, Abra election officer, has declared a failure of elections for the reason Tineg because she delayed arrival of materials has not given officials time to deliver the items to the townships on election day, reports from the Philippine Information Agency showed.

Tineg, which was briefly isolated along with Lacub and Malibcong at the height of Juan, has poor roads and could be reached only by walking through mountains and rivers, Pascual said.

In Nueva Ecija, provincial election supervisor Rodilo Bonifacio said the Comelec expected no major problem to crop up in the provincial election bumpers.

Bonifacio said their preparations and security measures put up by the police showed that it is all systems go in Nueva Ecija's 426 villages.

Pantabangan Mayor Sonia Sapit, Bolivar-Llagmay mother said 20 villages in Nueva Ecija would be monitored due to election-related violence incidents and the presence of communist rebels.

Election officials in Cebu, Region 7, mobilized and the province on Sunday and Luzon islands raised concern that voting in some remote villages in their provinces might be delayed because the official ballots and other election items have not to arrive in their provinces until Sunday afternoon.

In Cebu, some election supplies arrived on Friday but these could not be released without the official ballots and important documents, such as the election returns and the minutes of voting/counting.

Around 2,000 teachers and other members of the board of election inspectors (BEI) for the 1,404 voting precincts in Cebu City wanted to vote since 7 a.m. at the City Hall for the arrival of the election supplies.

Cebu City treasurer Dilsha Olis said they were late informed that the military plane (C130) that would transport the ballots and other election items to Cebu left at 4:30 p.m., arriving in Cebu at around 5:40 p.m.

By the time the election supplies would go to the warehouse of the barangay computer, before these are transported to the different cities. There would be the votes would have to be brought first to the provincial capital, said Olis.

Ali Dino Lagumbay, Virgilio Kintanar, municipal treasurer in San Francisco town of Camotes Island and president of the Cebu municipal treasurer's association, said he was dismayed by the delay as he and other municipal treasurers had been waiting at the capital since early Saturday.

Late printing

Kintanar said it was good that he has a house in Cebu City but the others had to sleep at the provincial treasurer's office.

Cebu provincial election supervisor Lionel Mares Castillano said the problem was caused by the late completion of the printing of the ballots.

"I was told that the printing of ballots was finished (only on Saturday) last night," Castillano said Sunday.

The delayed arrival of official ballots is a problem in the whole Visayas and Mindanao, he said.

This was also worrying election officials in Negros Occidental, said Kirsten Hontiveros.

Negros Occidental election supervisor Atanic Suarez said they would have to work until early Monday delivering all the materials to ensure that the elections would push through in all areas in the province.

He said the election materials were expected to arrive at the Bacolod Silay airport at 4 p.m.

In Bontoc City, a 9-hour town of soldiers was deployed in the city's inland village of Oboboyan on Sunday to assist police in ensuring peaceful elections in view of the lately contested race between two contenders for barangay chairman.

Supt. Ernesto Tibamangoy, Bontoc police chief, said the military was asked to assist the police because of the heated political situation in Oboboyan. The barangay chairmanship is being contested between incumbent barangay captain Manuel Antinong and former village chief Anita Alano-nalis. *Hillomon Monja Jr. and Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Aymond Gudoy, Inquirer Central Luzon; and Shannon Hapallmen, Carlo P Gomez, Joey Gabieta and Jhoe Ann T. Cuibas, Inquirer Visayas*

CAMPAIGN posters on for the public's attention in downtown Davao City in the run-up to today's barangay and youth elections.

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Youth voters fed, entertained, given cash in exchange for votes

TUBAC, Camarines—The whole island province was celebrating its 640-hundredth anniversary and the 30 youngsters on Board Fun Island were no exception, when a crowd in this capital municipality last Friday (Oct. 22), could easily be mistaken for visitors from nearby towns out to view various events in the 14th Canadungan Festival.

The youth were actually registered voters of a barangay in the northern town of Camarines who have been asked to join the trip to the capital town by a candidate for Sangguniang Kabataan chairperson.

For the next two days and three nights, they will be billeted at a luxurious accommodation where they would be fed, entertained and given cash before being brought back to their barangay early today to cast their votes.

A long-time observer of local politics from this capital town, who declined to be identified, said the same strategy is being done by numerous candidates for SK chairperson in many of Camarines' 315 barangays.

Known as "lamping," in reference to the candidates' hoping of his votes close by small cookies that are to be consumed at their visits, the practice stemmed from their adult counterparts' move to gather their allies and keep them in a location away from their circle before taking them back to the polling place.

The sundry events during elections for the municipal, provincial and congressional candidates of the barangay captains, SK and municipal councilors and is usually done by some provincial politicians to ensure the victory of their allies.

Several years ago, municipal presidents of the Philippine Councilors League, SK municipal federation and Liga ng mga Barangay municipal federation were also covered in hotels and even brought on board air-conditioned buses for trips to cities as far as Baguio, days before the scheduled elections for the provincial federation.

The strategy is far from dying at least in Camarines Sur's 10 municipalities but at most 60 barangays, with Bingang Isla, the smallest with just nine barangays.

Thus, a candidate for municipal federation president has to "keep" just a majority of the barangay captains or SK chairpersons to ensure their win and put their numbers to the Sangguniang Bayan.

The stake gets higher if the candidate is a relative or close family member of an incumbent politician. In Camarines, at least three children of former or current elective officials are running for SK chairperson in their barangays.

In the case of the 30 youngsters, they were asked to join the trip by the candidate whose mother is an elective official of the town.

Some of the candidate's supporters stayed home after persuading their votes to the candidate. There are 68 registered voters, 16 of which are high school students.

Those who can't afford to "keep" his supporters are banking on the ever reliable vote-buying. As early as Friday, lists of voters pledged to cast candidates in the other hours been making the rounds of barangays in Canaman and Camaro. *Fernando Gimena, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

VILLAGE youth of Sinabangan in Davao City fill out certificates of candidacy for Sangguniang Kabataan in the city's Comelec office.

VILLAGE YOUTH OF SINABANGAN IN DAVAO CITY FILL OUT CERTIFICATES OF CANDIDACY FOR SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN IN THE CITY'S COMELEC OFFICE.

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Baguio taps Japanese compost technology to end garbage crisis

BAGUIO CITY—In what may be the summer capital's third attempt to end its garbage crisis, the newly formed City Development Council (CDC) approved on Wednesday the purchase of Japanese bio-composting technology to be used by November.

The CDC was formed to refine and approve the city's proposed P3.9 billion budget for 2011, which would give the city a new fleet of garbage trucks.

60-80 tons of organic waste

Installing two units of the Environmental Recycling System (ERS) means that the city could process non-compost (62 to 80 tons of organic waste) each day, while residual trash would be collected by the ERS manufacturer as raw materials for backfilling operations or for making hollow blocks, said Mayor Mauricio Domogan, who led the CDC meeting.

The ERS units are distributed by Fronch Hindustrig, a subsidiary of the ETG Group of Japan, said Cordelia Lacsamana, city environment officer.

The system runs on a special fermentation process that relies on microorganisms called "effektron," according to a Fronch video presentation that was shown to the assembly.

The machines have become the centerpiece of Domogan's solid waste management program.

In 2008, the city started hauling 130 tons of garbage daily to a commercial landfill in Capas, Tarlac, when a group of villagers barricaded the city's only dump, burning heaps of uncollected garbage on major city streets.

The daily garbage trips to Capas prompted what could have been a public health hazard, and allowed city officials to begin replacing old-fashioned sites for an ecological sanitary landfill.

Former Mayor Bernardo Bautista Jr. and other city officials persuaded former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to open up portions of national reservations in Baguio as sites of materials recovery facilities (MRFs) or recycling centers.

Both Malcolmburg and the city government shelled out funds to build MRFs that would have served a cluster of villages.

The purchase of ERS compels the government to shelve the MRF program, Domogan told the CDC.

He said the garbage collection system could be modified so all garbage trucks would be directed to the first ERS unit, instead of to sorting areas set up before the garbage is dropped out in Capas, he said.

'Long-term solution'

Each ERS unit costs P64 million, but the units come with guarantees, including a buy-back option for compost produced by the city government. Projects offered to buy each kilogram of compost for P6.

A feasibility study undertaken by the City Environment and Parks Management Office showed that the city's return on investment could reach P28 million from the sale of compost alone.

Domogan said the government has set shelved plans to build a sanitary landfill although the ERS "is a long-term solution." Mimi del Carbonera, Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAMAGE: A Baguio-bound Jeepney driver passes by a flood at City Camp during Typhoon "Pepeng." The city set up a flood control drain there but trash clogged it again.

Iloilo town dads won't allow field testing of gene-altered eggplant

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—The municipality of Sta. Barbara in Iloilo has blocked the testing of genetically modified eggplants, aiming the first local government unit to do so against the controversial testing.

In a resolution passed Oct. 8, the Sta. Barbara municipal council declared the suspension of plans to conduct field testing of the Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) eggplant in Barangays Tangco and Lanang.

Ousted Mayor Sara Duterte earlier called for a stop to the testing at the University of the Philippines Mindanao campus.

Lack of consultation cited

The Sta. Barbara resolution cited the lack of consultation with municipal officials and farmers in the area, dangers to the conduct of the field testing as well as the absence of a comprehensive risk assessment on the possible health and environmental effects of the Bt eggplant.

Bt eggplant is produced through the artificial introduction of the Bt soil bacteria to the eggplant through genetic manipulation. Planting Bt eggplant, which is said to be resistant to fruit and shoot borers, would result in higher production.

Some groups of environmentalists, scientists and farmers have opposed the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) because of its potential harm to health and the native plant species.

In its resolution, copies of which were sent to the Departments of Agriculture, Trade and Industry, and Environment and Natural Resources, the Sta. Barbara municipal council said no testing should be conducted until it is determined that the Bt eggplant is not harmful to insects and native species or varieties of eggplants.

"We had no idea that there are plans to conduct testing in our town but the barangay captains confirmed that there were groups who approached them to conduct the testing," said Sta. Barbara Councilor Ernesto Pelilo Somapenyo III, chair of the council's agriculture and environment committee and author of the resolution.

7 sites of field testing

The field testing for the Bt eggplant are being conducted in at least seven sites in the country pending the application of the University of the Philippines Los Baños based Institute of Plant Breeding before the Bureau of Plant Industry, according to the Magsaysay Sipamitlibo para sa Ilog mahal ng Ayuhuitan (Mhaipagi), a network of farmers' groups, scientist and nongovernment organizations in the Philippines.

The sites are Sta. Maria in central Pangasinan; PSI, Carmelray Industrial Park 1 in Calamba, Laguna; Visayas State University in Baybay, Leyte; UP Mindanao in Davao City; University of Southern Mindanao in Kabacan, North Cotabato; and Sta. Barbara in Iloilo.

Sikat sa Middle East

Golden Mile, The Palm Jumeirah, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

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4 arrested for bus bomb attack in Cotabato

COTABATO CITY—Police arrested here on Saturday four suspects in the bus bomb attack in Maidan, North Cotabato, that killed 10 passengers and injured dozens others.

A trading team, mainly agents of the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), enforced four men at noon in a house in Sharif Sayen in Barangay Bonnly Heights here, according to home owner Bambina Hermanos.

She said that the raiders were led by a certain "police colored Tagum" of the newly created "Task Force Ittihad," a group organized following the powerful blast that ripped off a Ilocal Transit bus en route to Tacurong City from Cagayan de Oro City on Thursday.

City police chief Senior Supt. Willie Dungans refused to comment on the raid, which Hermanos claimed was staged without a court order.

She identified the arrested house occupants as Sister Ibtisah, Ghlamin Ismail, Ibrahim Alimusan and Abdul Alim Talusob, whom she claimed to be her relatives.

She said she would file a complaint before the Commission on Human Rights.

Alimusan also alleged that CIDG agents forcibly seized the suspects from the house and threatened neighbors by firing a warning shot. She said the suspects were to be brought to the provincial police office in Kidapawan City, which is in charge of the investigation.

Lt. Col. Benjamin Han, spokesperson of the army's 6th Infantry Division, said the suspects admitted that they were members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The rebel group, which is talking peace with the government, denied that the suspects were its members.

"They all confessed to be members of the rebel group/but when we verified with the rebel leaders, they disowned them," Hacmid the Inquirer by phone.

Han said a 16-year-old suspect, who was earlier arrested by the police, claimed the four suspects ordered him to board the bus with the improvised explosive device.

"Based on the revelation of [the suspect], he was tasked to carry and bring a bag that contained a bomb inside the bus," Han said.

Von Al Haq, spokesperson of the MILF, disowned the four.

"They are not members of our troops. We checked their names in our list but it seemed not any," Al Haq said.

The bus, Rural Transit, was carrying more than 50 passengers when the explosion shook the southbound compartment. An 81-mm mortar shell was used to make the improvised explosive device, Chiefte C. Solinas, Carlo Agustus and Jeofrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

Iloilo employees asked to refund bonuses through salary deduction

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—The employees of the Iloilo provincial government would have to refund around P11 million in disallowed bonuses through salary deductions, according to a provincial capitol official.

Provincial administrator Raul Banias said on Friday that Gov. Arthur Defensor was finalizing the payment scheme that would include cuts in bonuses of around 1,100 employees and officials.

Banias said the provincial government has to recover the bonuses disallowed by the Commission on Audit (COA), which disallowed bonuses granted in 2002 under the administration of then governor Niel Tupas.

The employees, including the provincial officials, had received an average of P50,000 to additional Christmas bonuses.

The COA had ruled that the bonuses violated laws and regulations in granting incentives to government employees because the bonuses exceeded the Personal Services (PS) limitation in violation of Section 325 of Republic Act No. 7160 (Local Government Code of 1991).

The Supreme Court affirmed the COA ruling with finality on June 17, 2008.

Banias said the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF), an arm of the Department of Finance that has jurisdiction over the local and financial affairs of local governments, had recommended that the employees refund the illegal bonuses through an initial payment of 30 percent of the sum and the balance to be paid by installment in three years.

Longer payment

But Defensor was still negotiating for a longer payment schedule for the employees so that their take-home pay would not be significantly affected, according to Banias.

"The refund will start this year through cuts in the bonuses and 13th month pay. We are just waiting for the final scheme and schedule," Banias said.

The COA has also ruled as illegal the P50,000 granted by the Iloilo provincial government to each employee on December 2009 also under the Tupas administration.

In an audit observation memorandum dated March 15, 2010, state auditors said the bonuses totaling P141,601,150.00 violated laws and regulations in granting incentives to government employees.

Banias said the disallowed bonuses would also be refunded by the employees when the ruling becomes final and executory.

BAND OF BOYS
Participants from different schools display their musical skills in the streets of Legazpi City on Saturday to commemorate the Feast of St. Raphael the Archangel and the month-long Bodong Festival. (GRACE J. LEE-BARCO, INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON)

Worker wins P5.7-M illegal dismissal case against SMC

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—The National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) in Bacolod City has ordered San Miguel Corp. (SMC) to immediately pay over P5.7 million to a forklift operator it had illegally dismissed 15 years ago.

Lawyer Mai Ong, legal counsel of forklift operator Eduardo Teodoro, said on Thursday that the NLRC had directed the SMC to pay P5,794,022 to his client.

In its earlier ruling (Jan. 18, the NLRC also said Teodoro was entitled to 365.5 sacks of rice pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement of the beer firm.

The NLRC computed the award this Teodoro is entitled to 365.5 sacks at backwards Supreme Court decision on labor law clarifying fixed-period employment, which was promulgated Oct. 2, 2009, Ong said.

The P5.7 million granted to Teodoro was the biggest monetary award in Negros Occidental covering an ordinary employee, Ong added.

The SC had affirmed a Court of Appeals decision stating that Teodoro was not a casual employee of SMC, but a regular employee on September 1992, and therefore his separation from work on July 1, 1995 was illegal.

The SC, in affirming the CA decision, asserted Teodoro regardless that he had contracted employment as a forklift operator since August 1983.

He was ordered in April 1992 and reinstated to his job after the first six months and after three weeks, he was again refused as forklift operator until August 1993.

So, when Teodoro was made to sign an employment with fixed period contract with SMC, he was already employed by the firm for 29 months, the SC noted.

SMC insisted that the reinstatement of Teodoro's employment was in accordance with his employment with fixed contract.

But the SC said that based on the circumstances surrounding Teodoro's employment by SMC, it was convinced that he attained the status of regular employee long before he executed a supposed employment contract with fixed period.

The Labor Code provides that a casual employee can be considered as a regular employee if he has rendered at least one year of service, whether continuous or broken, the High Court pointed out.

The employment contract with fixed period that SMC had Teodoro sign was meant only to circumvent his right to security of tenure, the SC added.

Subanen tribe stops mineral exploration

MISAMIS Zamboanga del Sur—The Subanen tribe in this frontier town has gained victory over its fight to prevent a commercial exploration in the Hinaiko mountain range.

On Friday, the members of Construction and Drilling Specialists Inc. (CDSI) started pulling out their equipment from Sumaylasi Guimabut village.

Jorge Cimatu of the Alliance of Save the Sangguty of Xavier (Asix), said it would probably take until Sunday for the equipment to reach the barangay road.

Another set of similar equipment were also idle at a road-side in nearby Sapopol village.

The pullout came 30 days after the tribe, along with local environment activists, staged a picket to prevent them from being transported into drilling sites deep into the forests of the Hinaiko range.

Cimatu said that on Thursday, he had a talk with Carlos Elvo, CDSI general manager, informing the provincial about the company's desire to pull out from the areas.

Cimatu said the was not expressing any community opposition to the mineral exploration activities but given the protests, CDSI has decided to back off.

CDSI was commissioned by the Geotechniques and Minerals Inc. (Gami) to do the mineral test drilling, Cimatu added.

Last year, Gami entered a Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) with the national government over 500 hectares straddling Guimabut, Sigapod and Gumayow villages.

The equipment being pulled out by the company is a drilling machine and about a dozen steel pipes.

There were to be used in drill for mineral samples the test results of which would determine the extent of deposits and, in turn, the viability of a mining project in the area.

The first picket was staged on Oct. 5 in Sigapod, two days after the equipment arrived, the second on Oct. 9 in Guimabut.

Manuela Pantao, one of those who protested, said it took them nearly a week to block the equipment in Guimabut because they were at first diatima where these were transported through.

When these were pulled out Friday, the equipment transported through Guimabut was only a kilometer away from the drill sites, said Pantao, citing information revealed to them by the machine operators themselves.

Pantao added that as the beginning of their picket, the protesters were told by Datu Bonsalan Alagat Bahlay Minanadato that Gami informed him it was able to secure the final nod of the Supreme Court for its mining operations in the area.

But Cimatuco debunked the claim saying the High Court had yet to act on its motion to reconsider their petition to have Gami's mining rights revoked by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

Asix has sought the revocation of the Gami MPSA, along with another company, Uni Oceanic Pacific Mining Corp., because of alleged irregularities in obtaining the local people's consent for their respective projects.

Among others, Asix points out that in the consent process, the Subanen tribe was not represented by its true traditional leaders.

As CDSI was transporting its equipment away from the drill sites, Cimatuco said the protesters were still around, ready to stage the protests to pull out "was not a ploy."

But Cimatuco himself admitted that was only temporary victory. "We know they (Gami) would devise new ways to get around our strong opposition to their activities," he said. Ryan B. Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao

Groups defend Deles' sincerity in peace efforts

DAVAO CITY—Various peace advocacy groups here have expressed their support to outgoing peace adviser Sec. Teresita "Ging" Deles, saying they are confident over the sincerity of her intentions in implementing the new administration's peace policies.

The Peace Builders Community Inc., a faith-based peace-building organization, said Deles' world surely deliver what is expected of her experience and credibility.

"As a peace-building organization, we take a stand in supporting her and we urge the Filipino people to work together and share the same vision of attaining genuine peace in the country. We believe that Sec. Ging Deles is very suitable and credible in her position, and she is not new in the arena of peace-building," the group said in a statement.

Several Mindanao peace advocacy groups banded up on Deles and proposed a P5-budget for her department after she allegedly recalled Lanao del Norte Rep. Imelda Dilah Dimaporo.

The Mindanao Peacewarriors, in supporting Deles, said that it is unfortunate that this act of Congress seems to derail the realization of the peace efforts between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the government in Mindanao.

"To further aggravate the situation, a resolution has been filed in Congress calling for a PI budget deliberation for the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) for 2011 from the 1925-million proposed budget. This move is sadly way too far from what we expect of our legislators and does not render justice to a duly mandated government office in charge of as function," the group said.

"It is also a blatant dismissal of government's efforts at strengthening its institutions to enable it to effectively promote its peace and development programs," the group added.

Deles, the group said, remains a "staunch peace advocator than she is with a firm resolve and good will to steer the peace process forward." Jeffrey M. Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao

Fish kill feared caused by chemical spills

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—Lake authorities were looking into reports that the fish kill in the Laguna de Bay on Friday was caused by chemical spills from the alcohol distillery plant in Calauyan town that burned down last week.

This was after Lake Fisheries reported that the dead fish emitted a peculiar similar to the alcohol drink, said Gerry Catandung, information officer of the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA).

He said fishermen near about a hundred dead "tilapia" and "banchal" floating off the coast of Barangay Colong in Sta. Rosa City on Oct. 11.

It was only on Wednesday that the incident was reported to the LLDA because of "logistic problem," Isaac."

On Oct. 15, fire broke out at the production plant of the Tanduay Distillery in Barangay Sala, Calauyan, a neighboring town of Sta. Rosa City.

Catandung said the chemicals might have spilled in a river in Sala, which is tributary of Laguna de Bay, causing the fish kill in Sta. Rosa.

"But that's just our initial investigation. We intend to conduct a deeper probe," he said.

Erlinda Ocampo, Sta. Rosa City environment and natural resources officer, said the fish kill only happened once.

She said they have advised residents not to fetch from eating the dead fishes, but nevertheless, the fire catch remains safe for human consumption. Marlon P. Ulan, Inquirer Southern Luzon

FIRE RAGES at the bonding and compounding area of the Tanduay Distillers plant in Barangay Sala, Calauyan, Laguna, on Thursday evening. Firefighters used chemical foam to put out the flames.

CARRYING the flags of some Asean states, protesters call for a boycott of next month's elections in Burma (Myanmar), in Friday's rally outside the Department of Foreign Affairs office.

Fear of China's might clouds Asian summit

'We are getting a preview of what China will look like and act'

From page A1

for Hanoi today with what Malacañang described as a "lean delegation" of 11 members.

Double talks between Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and his Japanese counterpart Yoshihiko Noda, on the summit's sidelines are in doubt amid the two countries' worst diplomatic row in years, which is centered on a disputed East China Sea island chain.

At the same time, the United States and Southeast Asian countries are concerned over China's increasingly muscular approach to maritime sovereignty in the South China Sea, where several regional nations—including the Philippines—are claimants.

"The level of apprehension is high, so many believe we are getting a preview of what China will look like and act once it has risen," said Ralph Cossa, president of the Asia Pacific arm of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"This is what Sun people are excited," Cossa said, as leaders prepared to travel to Hanoi for the 18-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) gathering starting Thursday, and Saturday's wider 10-nation East Asia Summit.

Assertive China

China and the United States, represented by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, will also vie for influence through a host of other disputes involving trade, human rights and the value of the yuan.

"China will, of course, frustrate Singapore," said Daniel Kliger, a Southeast Asia specialist at Australia's Deakin University. "The whole of Southeast Asia has experienced China being assertive."

The East Asia Summit (EAS), established in 2005, is a forum for dialogue on strategic, political and economic issues involving the 18 Asean members as well as Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand.

As China's influence grows, calls for a counterbalance in terms of trade and foreign policy have led nations to welcome the United States and Russia to the EAS.

Growing naval reach

A draft of the EAS chair's statement says the group "formally decided to invite the leaders of Russia and the US to participate in the EAS starting from 2011."

The invitation is expected to be issued to Clinton and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov who will attend their talks as "special guests."

China has also adopted a more assertive military stance, expanding its naval reach with new ships and submarines in what Beijing says is a purely defensive move.

Beijing claims all of the South China Sea, including the Spratly and Spratly archipelagos, potentially resource-rich reefs, outcrops which straddle strategic shipping lanes.

Taiwan and Asean members Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam also have whole or partial claims over the area.

This has led to anxiety and Swiss Ambassador Gunnar Stelzer, a lecturer at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore.

"These countries believe China will not compromise when it comes to the issues enshrined to its sovereignty," he said.

Asean unity

Adding to their nervousness, China favors a bilateral approach in dealing with individual claimants, Stelzer said, while Asean nations are intent on adopting a united stand which will give them more bargaining power.

Clinton and other delegates raised the South China Sea issue at an Asean-led security forum in July drawing indignation from China.

Clinton said that resolving disputes over the strategic area, a vital conduit for transport of goods and oil, was "pivotal" to regional stability and that the United States had an interest in "open access in Asia's maritime commons."

Perth expects the United States will take the issue again at this week's talks.

Need to be gracious

To the north, a dispute still simmers between China and Japan after Tokyo on Sept. 8 arrested a Chinese trawler captain near Japanese administered islands, known as Senkakus in Japan and Diaoyu in China.

Beijing reacted with a barrage of diplomatic protests, trade and other punitive steps, while Washington warned Tokyo that the islands are covered under a security treaty that requires the United States to defend Japan.

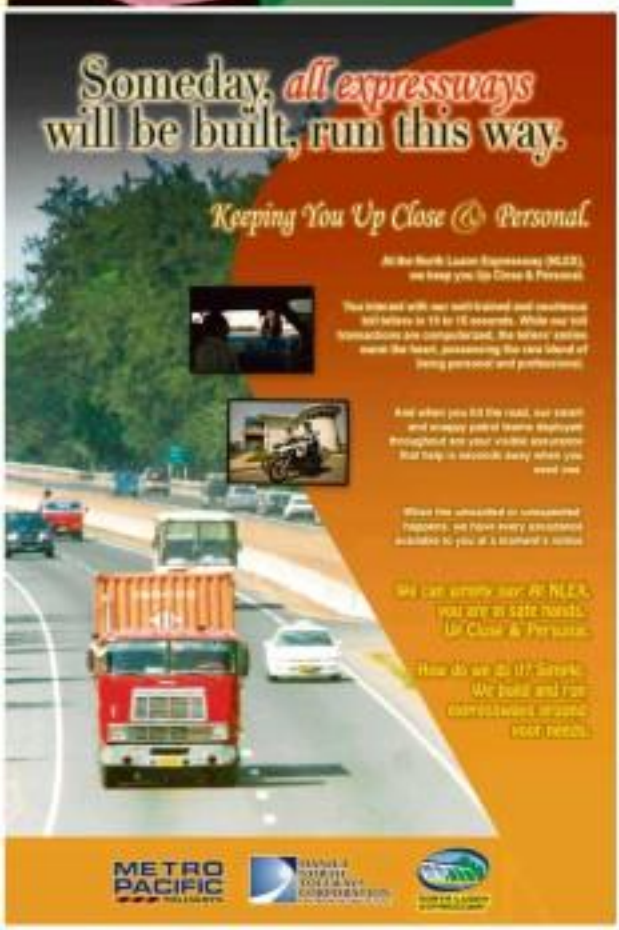
"I think the Chinese underestimated Ozy pushed too hard on the East China Sea issue and that they need to start being a bit more gracious," Cossa said.

Aquino's second trip

Mr. Aquino's stays visit to Vietnam is his second trip abroad since assuming the presidency on June 30. He addressed the United Nations General Assembly during a weeklong visit to the United States last month.

In Vietnam, Mr. Aquino will have a separate meeting with Vietnam Premier Nguyen Tan Dung and have talks with host state leaders.

Among those accompanying Mr. Aquino are Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Trade Secretary Gregory Ong, Presidential Management Staff chief Julia Abad and Communications Secretary Ricky Carandang. Reports by AFP and Christina S. Jacinto



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MERALCO'S Marlou Aquino (left) disputes the rebound with Jerry Cruz of Rain or Shine in yesterday's game at the Big Dome

Ginebra rips Derby Ace; hot Bolts score

By Marang R. Castillo

IMAGINARY thunderbolts seemed to roll all night to announce the first wins overall in the PBA Philippine Cup eliminations by bringing down defending champion Derby Ace, 93-82 last night at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

The Gin Kings opened up with a 13-2 run, blasted the lead later to 20, before holding off the severely underrated Tanduay to a wild finish to improve to 2-2 and shoot Derby Ace down to the cellar alone in 1-4.

Mac Cardona scattered 27 points as Meralco outlist stepped the longest losing streak in the young season with an 87-70 decision of erratic Rain or Shine.

Cardona scored 18 points in the final two quarters, including seven in the payoff frame, while Gabby Espinas had eight of his 18 in the fourth as the Bolts won for just the second time in 6 all in three-game clash.

"They (Extradots) started out fast and we took advantage of it," Ginebra coach Jong Uichico told reporters. "We just kept in our rhythm (winning) game to get a better flow of our (overall) game."

Rudy Hatfield scored 14 points and had 12 rebounds and Ronald Tubid also scattered 14 markers for the Kings, whose 24-point third quarter lead proved decisive.

Peter Jane Simon also had 14 points to pace Derby Ace, which continued to play without big men Raff Bonoto, Marc Pingris and Ricky Ravanes.

The overall point production also suffered in the usually high-scoring Amino fray, the reigning MVP was held down to just eight points, zero in the fourth.

Chris Ross, the US-American guard who was the chief overall pick by Coca-Cola once more ups, showed a glimpse of how good he can be by bombing down three big baskets in the fourth to pocket for the Bolts.

The loss was also the third in five games for the Giant Bearers, who failed to sustain the brilliance of their 99-91 victory over former tournament co-leader Talk 'N' Text last week.

"Except that three losses, we still won't somehow is just roll over and die," said Meralco coach Ryan Gregorio, who later in the night received his championship ring with the Derby Ace squad for winning this tournament last year.

"Now we are beginning to adjust to each other's strengths," added Gregorio, a winner of three championships with Purefoods/Derby Ace, including two all-Filipino crowns.

"It's a great feeling to win against a quality team. We believe that we can compete, We believe that we can survive this conference and we're just going to take it one day at a time."

The game was close throughout with the teams tied for the last time at 73, visible 31:09 remaining after the first of two outright carry by Enrico Cuntan.

But Ali Tadiwa completed a three-point play off Rodriguez and then added a bucket which came before Espinas hit a three jumper that made it 89-76 with 2:26 left.

The scores:

Gin Kings (93)
Hatfield 14, Tubid 14, Ildefonso 12, Ross 11, Ibanes 10, Cuntan 7, Quinto 6, Ayaay 5, Tadiwa 4, Ilagan 0, Mallari 0, Sangalang 0, Ayaay 0, Tadiwa 0, Ilagan 0, Mallari 0, Sangalang 0.

Extradots (82)
Cardona 27, Espinas 18, Rodriguez 9, Yeng 7, Cantada 6, Aquino 5, Ramos 4, Ilagan 3, Mallari 2, Sangalang 1.

Quarterscores:
GINEBRA (93) - Cuntan 27, Quinto 10, Ayaay 9, Ibanes 8, Tubid 7, Ildefonso 6, Ross 5, Hatfield 4, Mallari 3, Sangalang 2, Ilagan 1.
MERALCO (82) -

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Thurs 3 pm
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Sat 8 am
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Aplus METRO
Editor Alexander S. Lilunday

MMDA TO BUS OWNERS, OPERATORS:

Give number coding a chance

By Miko Morales

AN OFFICIAL of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday urged the owners and operators of public utility buses (PUBs) to give the number coding scheme a chance.

In the agency's weekly radio show over dzMM, MMDA General Manager Bahnet Nebrasketa asked PUB owners and operators to first consider the positive effects of the scheme in terms of efficiency and productivity instead of immediately shooting it down.

He said that most of the time, bus drivers ply their routes with their vehicles only half-full. As a result, they tend to make an average of four round trips a day to cover their targeted earnings.

With the inclusion of PUBs in the MMDA's unified vehicular volume reduction program (UVVRP)—more commonly known as the number coding scheme—there will be fewer buses on the road to compete for passengers, he added.

Operating at full capacity

Consequently, bus drivers will not have to make as many trips to earn money because each time they go out on the road, their vehicles will be packed with commuters.

Fewer trips will also translate into the more efficient use of fuel and reduced consumption," Nebrasketa said.

He added that at the very least, bus operators and owners should use the one-day their vehicles is banned from the road to have it inspected so that it would remain in good condition, thus reducing the risk of it getting involved in an accident.

Nebrasketa said that many PUB operators had agreed in principle to the number coding scheme.

ERMA, spokesperson Tina Velasco, however, said that the agency will wait for the approval of the Metro Manila Council, its policy-approving body whose members are the mayors of the 17 cities and municipality in the metropolis.

According to her, operators should air their complaints before the MMC before the scheme's implementation on Nov. 15.

Earlier, the MMDA proposed the revival of the odd-even scheme which would cover private vehicles and while plying Edsa or passenger traffic in the major thoroughfare.

Proposal shot down

The proposal, however, was shot down by the MMC when members decided instead to include passenger buses in the number coding program on an experimental basis.

PUBs were covered by the UVVRP until 2004 when then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ordered their exemption on the urging of bus operators.

Based on a study conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Edsa could physically accommodate up to 5,600 buses although around 3,800 (2) franchised buses currently use the major thoroughfare.

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QC eyes Payatas conversion

By Nancy C. Carvajal

AFTER 30 YEARS of operating as an open garbage disposal site, the Payatas dump in Quezon City will be transformed into a modern trash facility before the end of the year.

In a statement, Mayor Herbert Bautista said that since 2000, the city government has eyed the conversion of the 22.5-hectare open dumpsite into a sanitary landfill.

He added that in view of the dump's closure, the city government was preparing the bidding process for an integrated solid waste management facility which includes provisions for a modern waste-disposal facility and material recovery facility.

Bautista said he had talked to Environment Secretary Ramon Paje to inform about the preparations for the dump's conversion into a sanitary landfill which would take in the 1,200 tons of garbage produced by residents daily.

98 percent complete

"To date, the final blueprint for the construction and rehabilitation of the Payatas controlled disposal facility is almost 98 percent complete with the city government complying with all the requirements and environmental regulations," he added.

Republic Act No. 9003 or the Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 prohibits the operation of open garbage dumps.

Joseph Ivy Lorenzo, Joey Papa, chair of Barangay Kaligayahan Movement, a nongovernment organization advocating environmental issues, said that their group was opposed to the dump's conversion.

"It should be closed permanently and rehabilitated because there is no such thing as a sanitary landfill," he told the Inquirer on the phone.

"This is only continuing corruption. There's money in hauling and dumping (garbage)," he added.

Water supply contamination

Papa said the seepage from the garbage in the landfill could end up in the nearby La Mesa Dam, the impounding area for Metro Manila's water supply.

According to him, the ideal set-up was for every barangay to have its own segregation facility.

LAST DAY
Two soldiers in Bacoor, Manila, put up posters on the last day of the campaign period for the quarantined barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections. ALEXANDER D. MEDINA

BAD PATCH JOB
Anna, 44, of Quezon City, writes: "Narra Street in Project 2, Quezon City, is probably the ugliest stretch of road in the whole city. After being dug up by Manila Water for some unexplained reason, the contractor patched up the road by pouring asphalt in some areas and dirt in others. The result: A bumpy, road-jarring ride. Even worse, the interstitial voids are making away the asphalt, making the road even more tedious." CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Haven for criminals

Please ask PNP management why they allow their men to set up police post in the former Narra community on Agapito Sinserio Semputer, Manila. Drug addicts and holdup men use the area to hide at night while waiting for potential victims. It is also common to see people drinking in public there.

Gabriel Gil, Manila

Road project a waste of money

[Il nagsayo ang paggawa ng tulay sa sobrahidad corner H. S. Cristobal and Prudencio Streets sa Sampaloc, Manila. (The contractor who worked on Sobrehidad corner R. S. Cristobal and Prudencio Streets in Sampaloc, Manila, did a poor job).

Faustino Jao, 47, Manila

Intersection used as parking area at night

Passenger jeepneys always use Tayuman Street corner Floral Avenue as a parking area at night.

Jeff, 43, Manila

Taft-Pasay area needs lights

I am a Manila resident. I wonder why the stretch of Taft Avenue in Pasay City is so dark. All the light posts under the LRT don't work. But Burgos Street, a secondary road, is well-lighted. Isn't Taft Avenue one call center?

Wilfred Dizon, 34, Manila

Trip-cutting common on Commonwealth

Lots of jeepney drivers playing the taxi. Makes Philcoa seem not trips. They only take you to Litex Commonwealth terminal. They love bank.

Wally Villamajor, 60, Quezon City

Cops should stop hanging out at coffee shop

The robbery involving bus passengers on the Mindanao Zapote-Divisoria, Sept. 2 issue in Las Piñas City could have been prevented. Most policemen hang out at Starbucks Pamplona. They should conduct patrols 24/7 instead.

Ellen, 48, Las Piñas

Citizen's call

0918-8985566

NBI foc confusing

Please check with the NBI main office what the fee is for getting an NBI clearance. Here at the Malolos NBI satellite office, they charge you P150 but the amount on the receipt they give you is only P110.

Rona, 29, Valenzuela City

Sign needed on Pasay Road

The government should put a sign on Pasay Road in Makati City that the exit going to NAIA is closed. Commuters to Ninoy Aquino International Airport would not have to take the Buendia exit instead and traffic would be less. A sign would have saved us a lot of trouble.

Karen, 32, Quezon City

Traffic light scam?

Are the MMDA traffic enforcers on Panay Avenue in front of McDonald's Greenbelt in accordance with road ethics? The yellow light seems to turn red much faster than usual. Kindly observe how many motorists (or runners) red light even though the light was still yellow when they were crossing the intersection. I had to argue my way out when I was apprehended. When did yellow mean stop?

Francis, 37, Montalban City

Traffic light busted

The traffic light at the corner of P. Campa. and Alfonso Alvarado has not been working for several weeks. It's dangerous to cross the street.

Mike, 45, Quezon City

Urban planner needed

The government should hire an urban planner to solve the traffic problem. We should not always put barriers or signs. Lanes to be used exclusively by certain vehicles because these would only create bottlenecks and make traffic worse. The government should also crack (with) enforcement when (it) to solve traffic problems.

Lee, 68, Pasay City

No to 'kulglag'

It's "kulglag (motorcycle pedicab)" certified inadvisable? Do we really need these unsafe contraptions, driven by untrained bandits? Aren't careless bicycle enough?

Jojo, 53, Quezon City

This year's MMFF to highlight indie films

By Tina G. Santos

GOOD NEWS for independent filmmakers.

This year's Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) will highlight not only commercial and big-budgeted films, but also indie movies.

According to lawyer Francis Tolentino, chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) which organizes the annual MMFF at least five independent films will be shown in selected theaters from Dec. 16 to 21, a week before the actual film festival that is scheduled to open on Christmas Day.

He said the event is aimed at promoting quality independent films and encouraging filmmakers with limited budgets.

"This is our way of helping independent filmmakers. It is a viable avenue for them to showcase their movies and to increase public awareness on these kinds of movies which are normally not shown commercially but are internationally acclaimed in foreign film festivals," he added.

In coordination with the Independent Filmmakers Cooperative (IFC) headed by Raymond Lee, the MMDA has formed a special committee to screen the films to be shown and to supervise the annual pre-MMFF exhibition.

The films will be shown in digital theaters with high definition since a day, between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. Pre-selling of tickets will be done to maximize viewership.

A portion of the profits might on Dec. 16 shall be devoted to independent filmmakers to highlight their participation in the MMFF.

One entry will be given the award for achievement in technical excellence. The winner will receive a sponsorship from Fuji Film worth P1 million. The 35 entries in the former for showing during the regular commercial run after Jan. 7, 2011.

Special citations will be given to all participating films.

The MMDA, for its part, will help in the advertisements and promotion of the independent films by installing tarpaulins in the agency's Pahayagan ng Bayan en mayor elsewhere.

Rather, Tolentino also hinted that he would put more people into the board of jurors to pick the best pictures in the MMFF. He said the move would help put an end to controversy year after year regarding movies that unintentionally top the competition by virtue of garnering the highest ticket sales.

Yearly, the best pictures named at the MMFF goes to the film that sells the biggest number of tickets during the three-week festival in Metro Manila. The criterion has received mixed reactions ranging from harsh criticism to accolades.

Tolentino said people "from all walks of life" should have a say on who should win the coveted best picture prize handed out during the festival's main event Thanksgiving.

"I would like to put a voucher, a ballot or even a fine dollar among the board of jurors," the official said, explaining that their voices and views should be heard more in the choice of films.

"The people should be the ones deciding on the fate of a film, rather than an exclusive group. The greater participation of people is the key to the success of the competition and this would be done by putting everyday Filipinos in the jury," he added.

NCRPO on full alert for Metro elections

By Miko Morales

THE NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) yesterday said they went on full alert as it purposed to deploy some 4,500 policemen in different parts of Metro Manila to secure the capital for today's synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections.

Chief Supt. Nicanor Bartolome, NCRPO director, said police teams were ready to man around Metro Manila streets to ensure the peaceful conduct of elections which he earlier described as tension.

"We are now purposing to ensure non-violent elections," Bartolome said in an interview over dzBB as he pointed out that the police had yet to declare an election "hotspot" in the metropolis.

Earlier, the official said that some of the supporters of barangay aspirants tend to be emotional in rooting for their candidates during the campaign. He pleaded for cooler heads among voters, saying that after the elections, they would still have to live together in the same community.

As of yesterday, no major incidents of election-related violence had been recorded by the police.

Bartolome said the investigation of the killing of a candidate in Malabon City two weeks ago had yet to be categorized as election-related because investigators were still piecing together the facts of the case.

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INQUIRER

METRO BRIEFS

Man falls to death

A 26-YEAR-OLD man fell to his death from the roof of a Manila hotel under mysterious circumstances on Saturday, the police said. The victim, identified through a driver's license found on the body as Samson G. Huang, reportedly fell from the rooftop of a six-floor hotel on Arterial road (Gonzalo Puyat) in Sta. Cruz at about 11 a.m. SPO2 Ricardo A. Gatchalian, the investigator, said the victim had gone downstairs to the hotel's lobby, which is located where the former Good Earth Emporium used to be, after he and unidentified companions had dinner at the restaurant on the ground floor. The victim then grabbed one of the hotel's elevators connecting the ground floor to the roof deck and tried to scale the building, the investigator said. Moments later, the victim's body was discovered after he apparently plummeted to the ground. He was rushed to the Mother and Child Hospital on board a "habal-habal" or motorized pedicab by the investigator and the unnamed hotel guests. *Tetch Torres*

Fire hits factory

A THREE-HOUR fire gutted the factory of a plastic manufacturing firm in Valenzuela City yesterday, destroying its products and at least two of its delivery vehicles. The blaze hit the one-story warehouse of Bestan Enterprises on Bonifacio Street in Canumay East, Valenzuela City at 2:30 a.m., on Sunday, Senior Insp. Jaime Robles, Valenzuela arson investigator, said. It reached the fifth alarm before it was put out at 6:30 a.m. *Alito Calleja*

DID YOU KNOW

DATU SULAYMAN, the leading consul and ally of the Archdiocese of Manila, was founded in 1953 by the late Archbishop Rufino Cardinal Santos, the first Filipino Cardinal. The Archdiocese was then known as the Catholic Chamber. *Jobelle Bendaño, Inquirer Research*

ALL DRESSED UP FOR A GOOD CAUSE
Sarita, a Pomeranian, is dressed as "Esme" during a Halloween fund-raising event for the Philippine Animal Welfare Society's animal shelter, as small in Quezon City. ALI VICO

Bishops urge end to Israeli occupation of territories

MEXICO CITY—Bishops from across the Middle East on Saturday urged Israel to end its occupation of Palestinian territories so that a two-state solution could be found swiftly.

In a final communiqué at the end of a six-week meeting in the Vatican on the plight of Christians in the Middle East, the bishops also urged Israel not to use the Bible "to wrongly justify injustices," apparently referring to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

But in a news conference on Saturday, the archbishop in charge of the communiqué, Cyrille Salim Bustros, appeared to go further, saying the Bible did not justify a Jewish presence in Israel.

"The concept of the promised land cannot be used as a basis for the justification of the return of Jews to Israel and the displacement of Palestinians," he said. "Sacred scripture should not be used to justify the occupation by Israel of Palestine," Bustros, of Boston, Mass., belongs to the Greek-Melkite church, an Eastern Rite church that is part of the Vatican's renewed Middle East outreach.

Israeli officials called on the Vatican to clarify the comments. "I think the authority should be lifted by authorized sources from the Vatican," said Yigal Palmor, the spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

The Vatican spokesman, Father Federico Lombardi, said that the written communiqué was the official message of the meeting, not the remarks of Bustros.

The communiqué calls for a two-state solution so that the Palestinians would have "an independent and sovereign homeland where they can live with dignity and security," and "the State of Israel and all the other peoples must also enjoy peace and security within internationally recognized borders."

"If you read the text of the message," Lombardi said, "it's clear, it talks about the security of Israel and the rights of Palestinians who also have a right to their security."

The statement also criticized some Zionists who use the Bible to justify the Jewish presence in the occupied territories, saying that, "recourse to theological and biblical positions which are the word of God to wrongly justify injustices is not acceptable."

The message said that in a two-state solution, special status should be given to Jerusalem as a city holy to Christians, Jews and Muslims.

The bishops also blamed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for causing tensions that resulted in the exodus of Christians from the region.

In recent decades, the number of Christians in the Middle East has declined radically, largely because of war, instability and changing economic conditions.

Patriarch of the Israeli foreign ministry stated that Israel was the only country in the Middle East where the Christian population had risen in recent years, because of immigration.

The bishops called on countries across the region to foster the economic and security conditions for Christians to live securely and helped Christians not to sell their property if they did emigrate.

The bishops also urged the Vatican to study allowing married priests from some Eastern Rite churches to practice outside of their own dioceses, including to Western rite countries, to help alleviate the shortage of priests. The New York Times/News Service

Leaked files portray Iraq as weak, divided

IRAQIS grieve after a double-car bomb attack in in 2007.

WASHINGTON—The enormous cache of secret war logs disclosed by the WikiLeaks website paints a picture of an Iraq hardened by pervasive sectarian tension and meddling neighbors, suggesting that the country could drift into chaos once US forces leave.

The reports, covering early 2004 to Jan. 1, 2010, help explain why Iraq's struggle to create a unified, independent state continues, despite a dramatic reduction in violence. They appear to support arguments by some experts that the US should keep thousands of troops there beyond their scheduled departure in 2011, to buy more time for Iraq to become stable.

The threats described in the leaked documents come from outside, including more than Iran, as well as inside, in the form of sectarian, political and even family rivalries that predate the 2003 American-led invasion and subsequent chaos.

The reports demonstrate the weaknesses of Iraq's state institutions, counterterrorism and military, even before sectarian violence exploded in 2006-2007.

In the fall of 2003, the US military discovered evidence of plans to assassinate various officials, including an Iraqi Army colonel. In September, one of the war logs said, a group of judges was abducted in Balad, beaten and forced into the trunk of a car.

Another example: On June 6, 2006, US forces expected discovering large amounts of blood on the floor, a rubber hose and electric wires rigged to a metal chair in a building cell in an Iraqi police station in Hamdhan, in questioning.

The report called the discoveries "evidence of unchecked torture" and "clear indications" of human rights violations."

The US report said that for a time, US military advisers slept in the police station in order to ensure prisoners were not abused, shocked about logs and counseled Iraqi police, warning them against these practices.

But even a program of training and counseling didn't put an end to the abuses. According to a report dated Feb. 16, 2009, US forces reported the mistreatment of 23 detainees in custody at the same police station.

The Associated Press was given access to a redacted WikiLeaks database hours before its planned release on Friday, but was not provided the new data. The documentation appears to be authentic, but their origin could not be confirmed independently.

The leaked war logs reflect significant progress as well. There has been a dramatic improvement in security since the height of the violence in 2006-07, due to a weakened threat from al-Qaida and as Iraqi population weary of the sectarian bloodletting that once threatened to plunge the country into civil war.

Even so, some experts question whether the fledgling military and police forces are capable of defending Iraq after Washington completes its scheduled pullout Dec. 31, 2011.

Those who hold those pessimistic views also worry Iraq could repeat its history of turning to a military dictator in the mold of Saddam Hussein.

Ryan Crocker, ambassador to Iraq in 2007-08, said Washington has decided to now that page on Iraq, but must not close the book.

"We're still very much at the beginning of this story, or more to the point, the Iraqis are at the beginning of their new existence as their history, and for all of the extraordinary achievements that we've seen, the list of challenges is even greater," he said Friday.

One major challenge is the country's political paralysis. Iraqi politicians are struggling to form a new government seven months after a national election failed to produce a clear winner. That's a symptom, to some, of the country's stubborn religious and ethnic schisms. AP

WikiLeaks chief Assange, on the run, trailed by his notoriety

By John F Burns and Ravi Somaiya

LONDON—Julian Assange moves like a hunted man. In a stuffy Ethiopian restaurant in London's rundown Paddington district, he pitches his waiter-friendly alias: a whisper to foil the Western intelligence agencies he fears.

He demands that his dwindling number of loyalists use expensive encrypted cell phones and swaps his aces in other most change theirs. He checks into hotels under false names, dyes his hair, drops an inhaler and Xerox, and uses cash instead of credit cards often borrowed from friends.

"By being determined to be on this path and not to compromise, I've succeeded up to my extraordinary abilities," Assange said.

In the remarkable journey to notoriety, Assange, founder of the WikiLeaks whistle-blowers' website, uses the new few weeks as his most hazardous. Now he made his most brazen disclosure yet: 391,832 secret documents on the Iraq war. He held a news conference in London on Saturday, saying that the release "constituted the most comprehensive and detailed account of any war ever to have entered the public record."

Twelve weeks ago, he posted on his organization's website some 77,000 classified Pentagon documents on the Afghan conflict.

Much has changed since 2006, when Assange, a 39-year-old Australian, used years of computer hacking and what friends call a near genius IQ to establish WikiLeaks, redefining artistic-blowing by gathering secrets to bulk, storing them beyond the reach of governments and others determined to silence them, then releasing them instantly and globally.

Now it is not just governments that denounce him. Some of his own comrades are abandoning him for what they **see as erratic and imperious behavior** and a nearly delusional grandeur intensified by an awareness that the digital secrets he controls can have a price in flesh and blood.

Several WikiLeaks colleagues say the show decided to release the Afghan documents without removing the names of Afghan intelligence sources for NATO troops. "We were very, very upset with that and told him any he spoke about it publicly," said Daniel Domscheit-Berg, a one WikiLeaks volunteer and a member of Ireland's parliament. "If he could just focus on the important things he does, it would be better."

He is also being investigated in connection with accusations of rape and molestation involving two Swedish women. Assange has denied the allegations, saying the relations were consensual. But prosecutors in Sweden have sent to his initially approved charges or dismissed the case eight weeks after the complaints against Assange were filed, damaging his quest for a secure base for himself and WikiLeaks. Though he characterizes the claims as "a smear campaign," the scandal has compounded the pressures of his peripatetic life.

"When it comes to the point where you are seriously look forward to being in prison on the basis that you might be able to spend a day reading a book, the realization dawns that perhaps the situation has become a little more stressful than you would like," he said over the London lunch.

ASSANGE

Exposing secrets

Assange has come a long way from an **unsettled childhood in Australia** as a self-acknowledged social misfit who instead by socialist prison after being convicted on 25 charges of computer hacking in 1995. Money he pocketed by giving lectures and others who revealed the most inflammatory secrets of their age. Assange has become that figure for the Internet era, with as yet unreckoned consequences for himself and for the keepers of the world's secrets.

"I've been waiting 40 years for someone to do [what WikiLeaks has set out to] a scale that might really make a difference," said Daniel Ellsberg, who exposed a 7,000 page secrets study of the Vietnam War in 1971 that became known as the Pentagon Papers. (See related story on Page A24.)

Ellsberg said he saw kindred spirits in Assange and PC Bradley Manning, the 22-year-old former Army intelligence operative under detention in Quantico, Va., suspected of leaking the Iraq and Afghan documents.

"They were willing to go to prison for life, or be executed, to put out this information," Ellsberg said.

Underpinning Assange's assertion a deep uncertainty about what the United States and its allies may do next. Pentagon and Justice Department officials have said they are weighing his actions under the 1917 Espionage Act. They have demanded that Assange "return" all government documents in his possession, moderately to publish any more stars and not "solicit" further US materials.

Assange has responded by going on the run, but has found no refuge. Amid the Afghan documents controversy he flew to Sweden, seeking a residence permit and protection under that country's broad press freedoms. He visited without ever leaving.

"They called me the James Bond of journalism," he recalled wryly. "It got me a lot of fans, and some of them ended up coming on a bit of trouble." New York Times News Service

Iran said to be giving Karzai aide large bag of cash

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN—One evening late August, as Prime Minister Hamid Karzai wrapped up an official visit to Iran, his personal plane sat on the airport tarmac, waiting for a last-minute passenger: Iran's ambassador to Afghanistan.

The ambassador, Tejik Hassan Abdhi, finally appeared, talking in secret on Karzai's chief of staff and his most trusted confidant, according to an Afghan official on the plane. Abdhi handed Daudzai a large plastic bag bulging with packets of euro bills. A second Afghan official confirmed that Daudzai carried home a large bag of cash.

"This is the Iranian money," said an Afghan official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Many of us noticed this."

The bag of money is part of a secret, steady stream of Iranian cash intended to buy the loyalty of Daudzai and promote Iran's interests in the presidential palace, according to Afghan and Western officials here. Iran uses its influence to help drive a wedge between the Afghan and their American and Nato benefactors, they say.

The payments, which officials say total millions of dollars, turn an official who looks fund that Daudzai and Karzai have used to pay Afghan lawmakers, tribal elders and even Taliban commanders to secure their loyalty, the officials said.

"It's basically a presidential slush fund," a Western official in Kabul said of the Iranian support provided money "Daudzai's mission is to advance Iranian interests."

The Western and Afghan officials interviewed for this article spoke on the condition of anonymity citing the delicacy of discussing the financial dealings of Karzai and his aide. The sources said they were motivated by a concern that Daudzai was helping to poison relations between Karzai and the United States. Daudzai and Karzai both declined to respond to written questions about their relationship with Iran. An aide to Daudzai dismissed the allegations as "rubbish."

Abdhi, the Iranian ambassador in Kabul, also declined to answer questions. A spokesman for Abdhi called the allegations "devilish gossip by the West and foreign media."

The Iranian payments are intended to secure the allegiance of Daudzai, a former ambassador to Iran who consistently advocates an anti-Western line to Karzai, the officials said. Daudzai holds Karzai such sway.

The payments illustrate the degree to which the Iranian government has penetrated Karzai's inner circle despite his presumed alliance with to the United States and the other Nato countries, which have stationed him with military forces and billions of dollars since the Taliban's ouster since 2001.

Assessors vary as to how much Iranian money flow into the presidential palace. An Afghan political leader said he believed that Daudzai received between $1 million and $2 million every other month. A former diplomat who served in Afghanistan said assessments might be more modest in the range of $1 million. New York Times News Service

Cholera outbreak creeps closer to Haiti capital

PORTAU PRINCE, HAITI—A spreading cholera outbreak in rural Haiti threatened to outpace aid groups as they mapped up efforts on Saturday hoping to keep the disease from reaching the squalid camps of earthquake survivors in Port-au-Prince.

Health officials said at least 208 people had died and 2,670 others were infected in an outbreak recently centered in the Artibonite region north of the capital.

But the number of cases in towns near Port-au-Prince were rising, and officials worried the same surges will be hundreds of thousands of Haitians left homeless by January's devastating quake and now living in camps across the capital.

"If the epidemic makes its way to Port-au-Prince, where children and families are living in unsanitary, overcrowded camps, the results could be disastrous," said Dr. Isabelle Jan-nier, WHO/Pan American region needs of the capital.

Haiti's epidemic is of patients seeking treatment in clinics due, as in Port-au-Prince because the St. Nicholas hospital to the seaside city of St. Marc is overflowing, said Margaret Aguirre, an International Medical Corps spokeswoman.

At least five people who traveled from the Artibonite region to Port-au-Prince on Saturday tested positive for cholera once they arrived in the capital, she said. AP

The WORLD

John Lawrence D. Conza

WikiLeaks founder gets support from fellow whistle-blower

LONDON—Julian Assange, the founder of the WikiLeaks website, and Daniel Ellsberg, the former Pentagon analyst famed for leaking the Pentagon Papers, lashed out on Saturday at the Obama administration's aggressive pursuit of whistle-blowers, particularly Assange and others believed to be associated with the release of almost 400,000 secret documents on the Iraq war.

Assange also dictated what he described as the Pentagon's deliberately "botched" response to his release of the Iraq documents on Friday. He said they "constituted the most comprehensive and detailed account of any war ever to have entered the public record."

Assange, speaking at a news conference at a London hotel, was joined by Ellsberg, 79, who leaked a 1,000-page secret history of the Vietnam War in 1971 that became known as the Pentagon Papers.

Ellsberg, who said he had flown overnight from California to attend the conference, described Assange admiringly as "the most dangerous man in the world" for challenging governments, particularly the United States. He said the WikiLeaks founder had been "pursued across three continents" by "diverse intelligence services and compared the Obama administration's threat to prosecute Assange to his own treatment under President Richard Nixon. (See related story on Page A15.)

Both men hit out at what they described as the Obama administration's aggressive pursuit of whistle-blowers, which Ellsberg said put the US on a par with the kind of repressive legal framework that Britain has under its broad Official Secrets Act. He said the criminal investigation of three Americans linked to government leaks under Obama—including Pfc. Bradley Manning, a former military intelligence analyst suspected of providing the documents on Afghanistan and Iraq to WikiLeaks—were a new low.

Ellsberg said the Pentagon's demand that Assange "return" any classified materials in his possession was carefully couched in language similar to that used in the aftermath of the Pentagon Papers release, when he was threatened with criminal prosecution for espionage. "Secrecy," Ellsberg said, "is essential to empire."

The Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell condemned the Iraq leak on Friday, saying that those documents, and a previous WikiLeaks release of classified material on the war in Afghanistan, were a gift to "terrorists organizations" and "put at risk the lives of our troops." But he also played down the historical significance of the latest leak, characterizing the reports as "mundane."

Assange said the response was "less credible," since the comment was issued before the Pentagon could possibly have read the war archive posted on the organization's website on Friday night.

He said that the documents showed "Iraq was a bloodbath on every score," and that they chronicled 15,000 previously unknown civilian deaths there. Adding those deaths to 109,000 others that had been recorded by the group Iraq Body Count, WikiLeaks has estimated the civilian death toll since 2003 at more than 26,000. That, he said, put the human cost of the Iraq conflict five times higher than that of Afghanistan. New York Times News Service

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Giants edge Phillies, gain World Series /A30

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Rivera third in World Cup

Sparks hopes of Asiad redemption

THE PHILIPPINES' Mikey Rivera competes in the long jet alone semifinals duel with eventual champion Michael Schmidt. QUALIFIERS

TOULON, FRANCE—Jaygee Rivera "Mikey" Rivera ran into a wall but Mikkel Schmidt of Canada in the semifinals Saturday and settled for the bronze medal in the 48th Qubica-AMF Bowling World Cup.

Rivera, the 2006 World Masters champion, failed to keep up with the sizzling pace of Schmidt, who averaged 249.3 (1197/2022) in the 238.5 average (2215/2152) of the Filipino cocoach in their last all-three semifinal duel.

Schmidt went on to capture the men's title by downing top finalist Matt Miller of England.

The 36-year-old Rivera, who led the first block of eliminations with a 226 average, said he was satisfied with his showing and expressed optimism over his coming duties Sunday (day 3) in Guangzhou, China, next month.

"I'm pleased with my performance here," said Rivera in a text message. "I learned a lot of things that I need to improve on."

Tournament's top Asian

He was the top Asian in the tournament with South Korean Duk-Jong-woo ending up sixth overall.

Filipino bowlers failed to land a single medal in the Doha-hosted four years ago, with Rivera placing ninth overall.

Marianne Daisy "Apple" Francisco also created a stir in her World Cup debut by finishing fifth in the women's tournament that was won by Jean Guerra of Dominican Republic over No. 1 seed Qiu Min-yeong of South Korea, 2-1 (203-226, 300-196, 240-196) in the finals.

Guerra got her revenge in the World Cup title, she earned a shot at the bronze by outing England's Fiona Banks, 2-1 (207-225, 246-168) in the first stepladder match.

American Carolyn Doris Ballard ended up fourth.

The 24-year-old Pandan placed second after the second block of the eliminations and went as high as fourth going into the women's quarterfinals.

Close match in first game

The match between Rivera and Schmidt was close in the first game with both players going for a perennial 247. But Rivera, needing for a double in the ninth, left the 3-6 pins standing to give the Canadian the edge.

The Filipino actually got the first strike, but he left the 3-6-10 combination on his second shot to open the door for Schmidt to move ahead, 1-0.

Rivera, who vowed to win the second game to force a decider, had a disastrous start in three of the first four frames. On the other hand, Schmidt was perfect through the first seven frames before a 4-6-7 split denied his bid for the first perfect game of this year's World Cup competition.

Schmidt failed to convert the split but, though Rivera threw four strikes in frames 8, 9, game and match were over when the Filipino left a 2-pin standing on his first ball in the ninth frame. With a report from Mary Anthony Reyes

World Am: Dottie lifts RP to record 8th

DOTTIE ARDINA birdied two of the last four holes on the way to a one-under par 71 to power the Philippines to a best-ever 8th for eighth place in the World Amateur Golf Team Championships that were topped by South Korea in Argentina on Saturday.

Ardina finds also birdied the par-5 15th to card a 74 at the Olivia Golf Club as the Filipinas shared one table a dismal 149 in brutal conditions for a 72-hole total of one-under 575.

That was 29 strokes behind Korea's smarting 30-under 546 but it proved enough to better the country's previous best finish of ninth in 1968 in Australia.

Ardina, Louise Mariale and Anya Sinpoon placed joint 35th in 2008.

Mia Pitcher, who anchored the teams first nine with a 77, failed to count for the

FINAL SCAN /A28

RP Patriots grab ABL lead, down Thai Slammers

KUALA Lumpur's Filipino-import Rudy Lingganay (right) shadows Singapore's Wei Lung Wong. AFP

By Jaemion W. Poyo

THE PHILIPPINE Patriots thundered strong in downing the Chong Thailand Slammers, 54-40, to grab the solo lead in the fourth-season Asean Basketball League Saturday night at the Thiobhok National Stadium in Bangkok.

Anthony Johnson delivered a key inside shot, pushed the Patriots ahead, 40-40, with 3:06 remaining before teaming up with veteran guard Egay Billones to outscore the Slammers down the stretch.

"Our defense was working as planned but we just couldn't convert our shots in the first three quarters," said Patriots coach Louie Alas of the defending championship, who remained unbeaten in the six-nation tournament.

"Good thing we strengthened our defense in the fourth quarter and our shots finally fell."

American import Donald Little also shone in the Patriots' fourth straight triumph with 14 points, seven rebounds, three assists and five steals.

Johnson, sidelined in the previous two games due to a hamstring injury, warmed up with 13 markers, eight coming in the last three minutes.

The Patriots trailed by as many as 10 points, 19-29, even with the Slammers playing minus league top scorer Chris Exeter, the Cameroonian import averaging 20.3 points, who cut it out with an injury.

The Slammers—who only threw 11 points and seven rebounds from former Filipino import Jayson Dizon—slipped to second at 3-1.

The Patriots got their first taste of the lead on a Billones' basket, 41-40, following a Warren Bludner triple that tied the game at 40 with 4:46 remaining.

In Manila, returning Filipino coach Bong Ramos secured the Brunei Barracudas to their first triumph in four games, 87-70, against Indonesian Aspirin Medan Bhinneka Jaya to the eight-in-the-bleachers.

The Kuala Lumpur Dragons also banged into the win column with an 81-74 upset of the Singapore Slingers at the Mahu Stadium in Malacca.

Chris Grossman bombed a team-to-high 26 points as Singapore dropped its winless run (under Ramos, who rejoined the team only three days earlier).

American master Chad Webb, who replaced Ramos at the start of the season, did not see action.

Alex Mortaman registered for the Dragons with 25.

The scores:

PHILIPPINE 54—Little 14, Johnson 13, Billones 10, Hubler 8, Lebanjo 5, Galinato 2, Jaime 2, Hanson 1, Revilla 0, Fernandez 0, Lingganay 0, Rabina 0.

THAILAND 40—Pongsatorn 9, Chaw 9, Dissela, Jamaica, Lertwitsarut 3, Carter 6, Rujarot 2, Mhunsakit 2, Sanchit 3.

Quarters: 9-11, 26-20, 34-28, 54-40.

SINGAPORE 74—Grossman 26, Wong 12, Tham 10, Ng 8, Lim 6, Tan 5, Ong 3, Lee 2, Ho 2, Ong 1, Ng 0.

KUALA LUMPUR 81—Mortaman 25, Ong 12, Ng 10, Lee 9, Ng 8, Lim 6, Tan 5, Ong 3, Lee 2, Ho 2, Ong 1, Ng 0.

Quarters: 20-17, 36-32, 57-52, 74-81.

RP cagebelles rip S'poreans; Malaysia wins

By Jean Mangaoang

THE PHILIPPINE national squad thrashed Singapore to pass a runaway 101-54 win yesterday at the start of the 7th Southeast Asian Basketball Association Women's Championship at the Nicoy Aquino Stadium.

The RP cagebelles battled it out in the paint, shot confidently from long range and swept the Singaporeans in all three quarters.

Melissa Jacob added three three-pointers, Sylvia Valenzuela added two triples and Monica Aquino turned completed several fastbreak jams as the Filipinas built a commanding 44-12 halftime opened.

The Netherlands also clinched (from 15 offensive rebounds in the first 20 minutes, courtesy of Gwen Tromp and Ada Wiersma, while burning the Singaporeans in 21 turnovers.

By the end of the third period, the Filipinas were beyond recall, 71-25, giving RP coach Haydee Ong enough freedom to maximize her bench and explore several combinations.

In the remaining minutes, Wave Yuen Tee came through with 19 points on top of eight boards, four assists and three steals as Malaysia registered an 84-60 win over Indonesia.

The Malaysians, champions of the tournament's first five stagings before Thailand took the crown in 2007, grabbed an early lead, 21-10, and never looked back.

The Malaysia-Indonesia opener was followed by a brief opening ceremony led by Basketball ng Pilipinas president Manny V. Pangilinan and chair Cecile Mercado.

Also present during the opening rites were ABP executive director Sol Elio, Smart Sports chief Patrick Gregorio, Philippine Sports Commission chair Chito Loyzaga and shifter Thomson, ABP officials Bernie Antonio and Joy Antolino.

"We've been trying to develop our ABC in short and we're not going to let up from our schedule," said Ong.

Strike top Filipino import Kris Molyneux to a month that would determine six months by the table.

The scores:

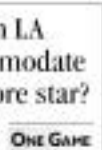
PHILIPPINES 101—Jacob 19, Aquino 16, Tiongco 10, Quiroz 10, Alcoy 9, Galapon 8, Mendoza 7, Pascual 7, Tiongco 5, Gabriel 4, Rosa 4, Arce 2.

SINGAPORE 54—Tee 19, Ong 8, Ng 7, Lim 6, Tan 5, Ong 3, Lee 2, Ho 2, Ong 1, Ng 0.

Quarters: 30-7, 56-12, 71-25, 101-54.

THE PHILIPPINES' Diana Jose and Ma. Ana Valenzuela form Singapore's Soo Lung Celine Seng (right) to make a pass in yesterday's game. KISS OCTAVO

Can LA accommodate one more star?



ONE GAME AT A TIME

SEN. SANDOVAL

GAITHERSBURG, MARYLAND— Most of them who went to Washington, D.C. (and why do Philippine who were born here or moved over because of work opportunities) first in the seventy years like this quote one. Imagine Wizards 'Little in "Inspector Bluewaters" and yourself an almost the perfect adoptive living.

The sporting fun for most is America's football. Sure, the Pinoys like the NBA and Manny Pacquiao fights, but value consumers, those is college and professional football.

There's no exciting games on TV (by logic) to understand why schools have players payment on a strong football program. The games fill the stands, attract alumni support and organize a fan-friendly tailgate that chases out dates, cops, dogs and anything you can put wings or numbers to.

Income from football also supports non-revenue sports, and is talk of selling out to the sponsorship of sports is hardly heard from professors.

The NBA is about to start and we can't wait to get our whole day—if we get up and enjoy it. Basketball is our game. But football gives the boringly here and how will back the ball and some volunteer weather to go to the games.

Here are still a handful of sports organizations here despite the lure of more active domestic culture, and the subject is very much in the air.

Sports Illustrated, the magazine to grow up to, has its regular NBA preview issue. The magazine is writing and photography are still without peer in its category.

It placed the Oklahoma Thunder on the cover, with Russell Westbrook and Paul George as the two young stars. Analysts on seven lineups, the Thunder has a subset of a driven athlete team, a top-three offense to open some NBA teams.

But the question will inevitably fall on the apparent reinforced Miami team, wether they will scorch the opposition so much, because there it only one ball to share.

Lebron James, Dwayne Wade and Chris Bosh once played together on the US Olympic gold-medal team in 2008. Will they be able to play together over a longer haul?

The sports media part will be the slightest bite of ego, and the Heat will have to do a lot of public relations that avoids spinning too much or hurting their new husband.

The reinforced Celtics now have the offensive, Thing and smarts, to match their frontline which the Los Angeles Lakers signed upon to be Frank last season.

The age factor will either motivate the Celts or call the younger legs that run into early-season floods.

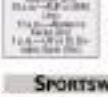
But as long as the Lakers have Lebron James and his ability handicap, possibilities of a three-peat are there.

Chemistry is one thing the Lakers will have, while the rest of the league will still have to answer a reliable rationing for results. Uh, who is that it has one real star with the rest of the cast willing to play their roles.

And don't forget they have a dynamo in Phil Jackson who knows what it takes to win.

After all, the youngest succeeds sometimes one real big name.

Jr. Warriors, Sta. Elena spikers gain LBC semis



UNIVERSITY of the East completed an weekend romp in the first LBC Men's Volleyball League as it swamped Ateneo, 25-7, 25-15, at the Ateneo Gymnasium to sweep the single-round eliminations and gain the top seeding in the semifinal round.

Kim Mordejai, Vin Hiel and Kim Bernal scored four kills apiece for the Junior Warriors, who also hosted our Colegio San Agustin, 25-23, 25-14, last Saturday.

It was UE's fifth straight victory in the tournament sponsored by LBC Hot ng Pinoy as it swept the six-team Juniors A division.

The Junior Warriors will battle the No. 2 team in Juniors B pool by Angelo UE II, Francis Barroso and Mhuneor Sandoval High.

Sta. Elena HS took the No. 2 spot in Juniors A by beating Mapúa@2, 25-10, 25-19.

ACF pulled off a thrilling 28-26, 14-25, 27-25 victory over University of Santo Tomas to force a three-way tie for the lead with SHC and Mapúa@ on 5-1. SHC trounced EIM, 25-9, 25-9, as Aries Yilmi and Jaime Bugtong beat eight kills apiece.

SPORTSWATCH

BTV's NBA office invasion

BTV broadcaster/host Sachin in the studio-place will be the first setup of NBA games in Metro Manila offices.

Basketball fans can watch the NBA Tipoff with the live setting of the opening-week NBA games starting Wednesday at the Araneta Center Dome Team 7 Lobby and the SMDC Guadalupe Makati City and the Ortigas Park in Pasig City.

The inaugural Tipoff Heat Update on the Brothers offers at 12:30 p.m. on Oct. 27, hosted by the Whether Conference champ-host Indiana Pacers Lil Lakers and the Memphis Grizzlies at 10:30 a.m.

BTV will be broadcasting games on cable to coordinate here in the country.

BTV will be covering official preseason NBA Manila to bring the big NBA action.

DLSZ batters whip Ateneo

DE LA SALLE Zobel Memorial Hymn, 11-4, recently to return by former baseball League center at the first International School in Bitas Laguna.

The junior batters, the 2018 National Little League junior champions, bombarded Ateneo starting pitcher Miguel San Juan with four hits in the top of the opening inning and scored to 10-0 lead then.

The DLSZ batters' stolen followed that 8-1 conquest of the same star in the top.

World Am: Dottie lifts RP to ...

From page A19

third straight day with a 73.

"Mission accomplished," said RP and ICTSI team worth Bong Lopez, who praised her mostly international pro to the final round after three successful to promote and the tough conditions at Buenos Aires Golf Club lasted to the third round.

"They really worked hard for this. The course and the pin position were super tough, not to mention the chilly weather and this wind," added Lopez. "They know putting (would) carry them through the Top 10 and they delivered in the closing holes."

Author, 26, sublimated two bogeys with three birdies in the second up and for eighth in the individual competition with a 206 aggregate.

Hicks, who turned 19 Saturday, wound up with 293 while Steele, after 11, finished a strokes back at 296.

CHEERIO Rosita, Mia Picco and Dottie Ardina (from left) share a light moment after finishing joint-eighth in the World Amateurs.

South Korea topped its dominance of the event with a 229 and a 17-stroke romp over the United States, which finished with 2402 after a 142.

Hira Naveed fired a 70-277, Rio Alaer teamed in a 71-277 and Bianca Pagdanganan a 69-278 as they took the top three places—a rare sweep—in the individual race, making them the team to beat in next month's Asian Games.

Sweden (1496), Taiwan (1487) and South Africa (1460) finished tied for third at 872, Spain placed sixth with a 873 after a 148 and Canada grabbed a 143 for solo seventh at 874.

Denmark struggled with a 152 while New Zealand assembled a 142 to tie the Philippines, whose campaign was sponsored by ICTSI and underwritten by the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

Lopez said the Filipinos' best against well for team status Garner "And, as Bengals he admitted that for Koreans will be tough to beat.

39 show way in 'Bakbakan' 10-stag battles

THIRTY-NINE dusty bowlers lead the way in the PBA@ National Invitational 10-King Derby elimination starting tomorrow at the Pinoy Cockpit and Dining Hall Cubao.

The top 30 bets (and with a perfect three wins) to the dogfight expected to draw more than 3,000 inches this year, according to National Federation of Basketball Bowlers president Ricky Bautista.

Participants at the Pinoy Cockpit and LBC must submit their names to the venue today.

Other elimination dates set this month include Oct. 29 (Pinoy Cockpit, Ups Games, Laong Laong), and Oct. 30 (Laguna Bowling Center). Nov. 30 (Laguna Sports, Fantastic Collection, Mga Hiwalayan, Apopong Gallera, Emerson and Zamboanga Square Gardens). For details, contact the PBA@ office at 709-1015.

The "Bakbakan" has drawn a total of 400 bowlers after 10 elimination rounds in different tournaments.

The PBA@ is composed of 33 geneticed branches associations, including members from the Visayas and Mindanao.

PBA lines up 4-day special

THE PBA lines up a four-day "Halloween Special" starting with a double-header this Wednesday at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

"We have scheduled eight great games for the four-day week," said PBA commissioner Chito Salud. "All of these are must-see and I mean them they'll get their money's worth."

A 7:30 p.m. showdown pitting early leaders Ion Miguel and Alaska comes right after the 5 p.m. battle between Talk N Text and Powerade on Wednesday at the Big Dome.

On Friday, crowd favorite Barangay Ginebra San Miguel and Alaska comes right after the 5 p.m. battle between Talk N Text and Powerade on Wednesday at the Big Dome.

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Tough sked awaits RP 5 after Saudis

By Jose Narzore

THERE'S NO reprieve for the Smart Gilas national team ever. It is hardly Saudi Arabia in the opening round of the Guangzhou Asian Games basketball competitions next month.

Under the brutal schedule, the survivor of the Nov. 13 RP-Saudi basketball contest—either, to be held at the Huangpu Gym, will next take on Asian champion Iran (Nov. 16), Qatar (Nov. 17) and Japan (Nov. 19) in succession.

After a Nov. 21 date with either Afghanistan or India, the five-round qualifier collides with dangerous Chinese Taipei at Yingdong Gym the following day.

"Playing Iran, Qatar and Japan in four days is a tough schedule," said RP coach Rajko Toroman.

Smart Gilas officials have high hopes that the Nationals will prevail over the Saudis and join Group F in the second round.

The top four teams from each of the two groups advance to the crossover quarterfinals.

China, South Korea, Jordan and Uzbekistan are bracketed in Group E, which will include two more qualifiers from among Hong Kong, North Korea, Turkmenistan and Mongolia.

A one-day break is scheduled after the match opposite Chinese Taipei.

The quarterfinals is set on Nov. 24, the semifinals on Nov. 25 and the gold-medal game Nov. 26.

"We will come in prepared, but I have to admit that the focus should first be on the game against Saudi Arabia," said Toroman.

The composition and style of play of the Saudis remain a mystery for Smart Gilas, whose only glimpse of the squad came when it shellacked a club team reinforced by some national players in the Fiba Asia Championships Cup held in Doha, Qatar five months ago.

Time to focus for Manny

Scores of fans greet Pacquiao in LA; Khan held briefly

"NOW IT'S time to get focused. We're in Los Angeles."

Celebrated American trainer Freddie Roach declared this shortly after ground-bound Manny Pacquiao and his team arrived to a warm welcome from scores of Filipino fans at the Los Angeles airport Saturday evening (Sunday in Manila).

While Roach repeated his prediction that Pacquiao's Nov. 12 showdown with Mexican nemesis Marquez "will not go past eight rounds," he said the next two weeks starting Monday would be the most critical part of the Filipino superstar's preparation.

Three new sparring partners will cut Pacquiao, including undefeated light middleweight Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. and Vanes Martirosyan, who has said he would try to score a knockdown and earn a $1,000 ($92,400) bonus from Roach.

Sparring will begin on Tuesday behind closed doors, with Roach shutting down the Wild Card Gym from 12 noon to 5 p.m. every day to prevent people who are not part of Team Pacquiao from disrupting training.

Conditioning expert Alex Ariza said he would check Pacquiao's weight after duty dinner to his plush Palazzo apartment to "evaluate where we started, where we are at, where we must for the last two fights [against Miguel Cotto and Joshua Clottey] and go over those."

Roach said Pacquiao weighed 146 pounds here. Ariza indicated he would like to see Pacquiao get up to 151 lb or 152 lb.

"If he can stay right there and have great sparring TJ like to keep him there," said the four-time Hall of Fame trainer.

Team Pacquiao chief of staff Joe Rainos told the reporters that some Pacquiao fans had waited for hours to get a glimpse of their hero while others hoped to join the pictures.

HAPPY Pacquiao arrives with his big entourage at the Los Angeles airport. AFP/ROBYN BECK

Rainos said World Boxing Association junior welterweight champion Amir Khan, who trained and sparred with Pacquiao in Baguio City, was detained at the airport for almost 45 minutes.

Khan was held for questioning by British customs officials.

Ronnie Nathanielsz

DANIEL

Ex-world champ faces Banal Saturday

TWO-TIME world champion Luis Alberto Perez of Nicaragua returned to demolish world-rated MJ "Macinday" Rasid in their 10-round fight at the Newport Hotel and Casino in Cebu this Saturday.

The former JBC super flyweight and bantamweight champion, nicknamed the "Terrible Man," is one of three foreign fighters who will highlight the Pinoy Pride mega boxing showdown presented by Gerry's SEA Promotions in cooperation with ABS-CBN.

Rasid, "The Blade" Hernandez of Mexico will battle welterweight prospect Mark Anne Mediguin and Sergiorch Jee Sakunrat of Thailand will clash with young Filipino prospect James Pegues of Cagayan de Oro City.

Perez arrived in Cebu recently with trainer Mario Antonio Garcia Fonseca and manager Luis Reynaldo Mendoza.

Perez, who has an impressive record of 26-4 with 17 knockouts, wrote the IBF super flyweight title by beating Julio Hernandez. He defended the title three times with wins over Machado, Luis Beltran and Ernesto Kadov of Russia.

Perez later won the JBC bantamweight title via a seventh-round TKO win against Gresner Garcia.

Ronnie Nathanielsz

Dilema siblings pull off KDJM victory double

By Musong R. Castillo

BROTHERS JEFFY and Val Dilema enjoyed long shots Indy's Task and Lord of War to overtaking wins in the Klub Don Juan de Manila Juvenile championships yesterday after at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

The Patty Dilema-piloted Lord of War, the more established of the two runners in the Tuks' field, ran a brilliant race before capping outstanding jerk Arvindoga at the wire by 1 minute and 28/5 seconds.

Lord of War clocked quarter times of 32, 27, 24 and 28 for 1,400 meters.

Indy's Task, the far fourth choice also in a five-filly field, came from behind earlier under Val Dilema to run by more than five lengths over Dreaming in a fairly close circuitous.

Selling just P42,000 out of the total daily double handle of P735,723, Lord of War actually looked like a great early in the race after engaging Dorror Quevara in a torrid battle for the lead.

But the son of Quaker Ridge out of Hour Miss dug deep in mid-backstretch and wrested the lead before leading off the Rebeca Malaga-ridden My Boys Best and then Arvindoga in a solid race in the wire for P900,000.

Arvindoga, the Arthyl Canete-ridden champ who got the hottest nod after bitter rival Simply Simply was scratched three days before the race, covered P769,681 of the rates.

My Boys, the far second choice, had a clear shot at winning, but Malaga got hooked up in the rail heading into the final 150 meters and Arvindoga's stretch bid lent him to the P112,500 second-spot.

Jhery Dilema patiently guided Indy's Task in third while watching Antoine D'Tips and Hold the Bubbly spend each other out in the first 800 meters.

Indy's Task gave Jhery Dilema one huge kick to the homestretch, grabbing the lead from the fading Dior and sailing a three length-lead over the similarly hard-finishing Dreaming heading into the final bend.

Dismissing the Hernan Figueroa-owned daughter of Quaker Ridge are of Mariner Notes who was ridden by are Jonathan Hernandez, settled for the P112,500 second-spot's purse.

The consequence RUM Derby and the Don Antonio Pharmedic Golden Girls' Stakes were still being run at press time.

HYT San Beda's Evalen Daniel (center) shows an oversized check for P30,000, his prize for winning this season's NCAA Most Valuable Player award. With Evalen, a long-time PS Prestigeur endorser, are PS Prestigeur representatives Evelyn Santiago (left) and San Beda team manager Mukadi Adonis.

Miami Heat sign free agent Stackhouse

THE MIAMI Heat signed veteran free agent Jerry Stackhouse to fill a hole in their roster after losing Mike Miller to injury. Reserve said Saturday.

The 38-year-old was drafted as NBA title by the Miami Heat in the 2008 Dispute when he played for the Dallas Mavericks, but could now have another shot after joining a team that boasts All-Stars LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh.

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Reuters

US Open: Kiamco ends up fourth

DARREN APPLETON of England outlasted American Casey Detail, 15-13, Sunday to win the Ladies' European Tour Open-19 Ball Championship at the Chesapeake Conventional Center in Virginia.

Appleton, who won the first world 10-ball championship in 2006, completed a run of nine straight matches through a field of 256 to pocket $50,000.

Detail, the 2004 US Open champion, earlier eliminated Filipino Marlon Kiamco in the quarterfinals, 14-12, then crushed Finland's Ilkka Immonen, the winner of the event the last two years, 13-3, in the semifinals.

Had the "win by two" rule not used in the last two days, Kiamco would have ousted Detail to their duel as the Filipino had taken the lead on 11-10 and then on 12-11.

The race-to-11 format ending in the quarterfinals was changed with a player needing a two-rack lead to win from 11-all.

Detail settled for $20,000, Immonen pulled up $13,000 and Kiamco got $8,000.

The nine-match winning streak included two wins over Detail, as well as victories over fourth champ Dan Zen (11-8), Renato Alamo (11-7), Efren Reyes (11-5), and David Alcaide (11-8), in the battle for the last seat, his defeat of defending champion, Mika Immonen (11-9).

Amit opens defense of world 10-ball crown today

RUSSIAN AMIT seeks to defend his crown when the Philippines hosts the 2014 Mido women's world 10-ball championship today at the Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas.

Amit, the country's top female pool player, became the first Filipina to bag a world title when completing an impressive run from the losers' bracket with a 10-8 victory over Chinese Gigel's ironclad world champion Liu Shin-mei, 10-6, in close year's finals.

"I really want to defend my title," said the 20-year-old Amit.

World No. 1 Allison Fisher of England leads the 46 topnotch female players aiming to stop Amit's bid in the event of facing a $75,000 (P3.2 million) total cash prize including $20,000 for the champion.

Also seeing action are Jasmin Ouschan of Austria, former world No. 1 Karen Corr of Ireland, reigning China queen winner Tsai Pei Chen of Taiwan, all-Japan champion Han Yu of China and Korea's Ga Young Eun and January World champion Yu Ran-Chu.

Before watching the finals, Amit stunned Jasmin "The Black Widow" Lee of the United States, 9-8, in the quarterfinals then subdued Japanese Akiko Kajiwara, 9-8, in the semifinals.

"It is the biggest sporting event for women in the Philippines in 2014," said Cindy Lee, CEO of the organizing Group on Promotions.

Monsalves spark LSGH in ICTSI Inter-School golf

BROTHERS JOSH and Ryan Monsalve powered La Salle Green Hills to a commanding lead in the Midgets 1 division while Stonedominated the Midgets 2 category at the start of the first ICTSI inter-school golf tournament recently at the Sta Filipinas Golf Club in San Pedro, Laguna.

Josh and Ryan carded 37 and 38 points, respectively, at the head of a scoring rampage by the Greenies who posted 103 for the day.

Will Nikolo Guinaran adding a 31, LSGH ranks commanding 37 point lead over Berna 1 which earned the day's best scoring effort courtesy of Christopher Popp.

Juniors 1 and 2, meanwhile, paced the Midgets 2 side of the competition which is part of the year-round junior development program being initiated by the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines with the full backing of the International Container Terminal Services, Inc. and other sponsors.

NNCAA CHAMPS—St. Scholastica's crack ladies pose for posterity after snipping Miriam College in one finals to bag the WNCAA junior volleyball crown recently at the SSC gym. Bonding their run were team captain Jenny de Leon, head coach Dindo Pael, high school principal Dr. Fe Adela Arbito, OSB, volleyball club moderator Orly Dalusio and basketball sports coordinator Ms. Vivian Manila.

Eagle golf tilt stakes Accents

THREE HYUNDAI Accent sedans serve as the big prizes in the Pete De Four member-guest invitational tournament of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club slated on Nov. 19 and 20 in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

A member and his guest competing in the Weekday tournament will each drive home an Accent as the grand raffle prize winners of the Pete De Four, which will be played at the four courses of this country's biggest golf complex.

Another Accent can come out of the best-selling models of the former, now occupying worth almost P700,000, will serve as one of the hole-in-one prizes which also includes a premium lot at the Eden de Oro subdivision in Gen. Trias.

Ms. Lucia Shelly Development, Inc., Mactal Land Corp. Autobuh Group and Hyundai Global City are the major sponsors of the Pete De Four, which is expected to draw 200 Eagle members and their respective partner guests.

The field will be classified according to handicaps and will be assigned to two of the four courses.

Class A and Class C teams will play the Pete man and Dee layouts while those in Class B, Class D and the ladies divisions will be at the Bold and Pablo courses.

The four-course set-up makes it easy for Eagle to accommodate a big field for the Pete De Four and get the tournament done without the usual two days for some as everybody will finish at the same time.

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GIANTS catcher Buster Posey celebrates after Phillies slugger Ryan Howard strikes out to end the 6th, 8th series Saturday in Philadelphia. - Uribe sews up title duel with Rangers

Giants edge Phillies, gain World Series

PHILADELPHIA—Juan Uribe hit a clinching, homer-off Ryan Madson with two outs in the eighth inning as the San Francisco Giants beat the Philadelphia Phillies, 3-2, Saturday in Game 6 of the National League championship series to reach the World Series for the first time since 2002.

The pitching-rich Giants will host the Texas Rangers in Game 1 on Wednesday.

Slumping Phillies slugger Ryan Howard looked at a called third strike with runners on first and second to end it.

Giants ace Tim Lincecum struggled in the eighth inning, pitching in relief on one day of rest after losing Game 5.

Brian Wilson got five outs to finish off the Phillies, who were trying to become the first National League team to 60 years to win three straight pennants.

San Francisco booked their first trip to the fall Classic since 2002 on the strength of third baseman Uribe's solo homer run.

The Giants will be looking for their first World Series title since 1954 as the New York Giants, while the Rangers are making their fall Classic debut in their 50th year as a franchise, born in 1961 as the Washington Senators.

The Rangers beat the New York Yankees 6-3 on Friday to win the American League Championship Series. The win gave them a 4-2 triumph in the best-of-seven series.

Rangers ace Cliff Lee gets to pitch in an even bigger game now for the underdog Rangers.

Lee is no stranger to the World Series. He won Games 1 and 5 for Philadelphia over New York last autumn before the Phillies traded him to Seattle on the same day they acquired Roy Halladay. AP and Reuters

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FERRARI's Fernando Alonso takes his trophy on the podium after his winning victory. -

Alonso rules Korean GP, vaults to No.1

YEONGAM, SOUTH KOREA—Ferrari's Fernando Alonso won a rain-hit and chaotic Korean Grand Prix to seize the Formula One championship lead on Sunday after both his Red Bull rivals failed to finish.

In an inaugural race delayed by a downpour, started, stopped again and then re-started behind the safety car after a 45-minute wait, the Spaniard could scarcely believe his good fortune.

With two races to go, and a maximum 50 points to be won under the new scoring system, Alonso celebrated his fifth win of the year to take a 10-point deficit into an 11-point lead over Red Bull's Australian Mark Webber.

McLaren's 2008 champion Lewis Hamilton finished second, 14.9 seconds behind, and moved up to third overall with 216 points, 11 behind Alonso.

Brazilian Felipe Massa was third for Ferrari.

Alonso, now with three victories in the last four races, took the chequered flag a full three hours after the race had been due to start.

Webber, who had started in second place behind teammate Sebastian Vettel, crashed out with the new proper barely started.

"Totally my fault," the Australian, winner of four races this season, said.

Only 13 of the 24 cars finished the race.

Vettel was halted two laps 40 with a blown engine. He will re-launch on 206, with McLaren's reigning champion Jenson Button finishing one of the points and effectively relinquishing his title. The Briton is now 42 points off the lead. Reuters

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BUSINESS

INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.

Subsidies to GOCCs declined in first 9 mos

Sharp cuts made under P-Noy administration

By Norma V. Dominguez

THE GOVERNMENT handed out a total of P9.674 billion in subsidies to state-owned and -controlled corporations and financial institutions in the nine months to September as Malacañang continues to rein in spending.

Data from the Bureau of the Treasury show that the amount extended in the nine-month period decreased by 21 percent from the P12.26 billion disbursed in the same period of 2009.

The bulk of the subsidies in January to September went to housing, sugar, livelihood and telecommunication programs.

The top recipient during the period remained the National Housing Authority (NHA), getting more than a third of the total with P3.691 billion.

The Aquino administration has vowed to spending during the first three months of its term, having spent only about two-thirds of what was disbursed in the first and second quarters under the Arroyo administration.

In particular, the new government moved to cut state firms following the revelation of alleged abuses related to the compensation of top officials.

For instance, the National Food Authority (NFA) came under fire as the effectiveness of its rice importation and subsidy program were questioned.

Even then, the NFA remained the second biggest subsidy in the first three quarters of the year, amounting to P3.085 billion—all during the first half.

Others among the top five recipients were the National Livelihood Development Corp. (NLDC) with P1.102 billion; National Telecommunications Commission, P1.025 billion; and Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), P360 million.

In September alone, the flow of subsidies from the state coffers went down 46 percent to P319 million from the P595 million given out in the same month last year.

The PCA received the biggest amount in September at P70 million, about a quarter of the total for the month.

Other top recipients during the month were the NLDC (P52 million); Philippine Children's Medical Center, P39 million; Philippine Heart Center, P34 million; and Cultural Center of the Philippines, P33 million.

INDICATORS

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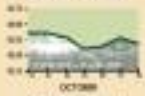

Market breather seen amid Cebu Pac IPO

LOCAL SHARES may take another breather this week after reaching record levels last Friday, before making another push to new highs as the fourth quarter progresses.

The main index's movement may also be tempered as blue chips are lapped by investors distracted by Cebu Air Inc.'s initial public offering (IPO) on Tuesday.

The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange Index (PSEi) closed at a record high of 4,296.86, 1.67 percent

MARKET 30

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The price of 'love'

A TYCOON and his silver-ornamented girlfriend visited a jeweler's store in the lobby of a five-star Makati hotel recently.

The girl fancied a pair of drop earrings laden with diamonds and dark blue stones known as tanzanite.

Appreciated for its sunny and green hues, the Tanzanite-accented stone, also known as blue zoisite, gets off a purple hue when hotly exposed the light.

Tanzanite may be more brittle, but in many instances, it can cost more than its look-alike precious stone, sapphire, because it has a softer, deeper and therefore more desirable blue color.

But these facts were obviously unknown to the girl who demanded a 5.5-carat tanzanite on the spot when told that the earrings cost P1.5 million.

"Blue sapphire lang 'yan," she fumed. "Super P50,000 lang."

Told that the blue stones in the coveted pair were tanzanites, not sapphires, the girl left empty-handed.

The stiff then turned their attention to the Tycoon and pestered him with some subtle gold pieces, causing the girlfriend to erupt: "Sir, sir lang ang sabi no sa inyo!" (Addressed as Sir, Sir lang ang sabi no sa inyo!)

Bit Bull learned the staffers were shocked by the girl's comment, blacked out within the tycoon's comfort, considering that he is known to have forgiven many of her indiscretions.

Cathy Rosauro

Risk the miner

ASIDE FROM power and mining issues, mining opportunities are keeping San Miguel Corp. president Ramon S. Ang busy these days.

After taking over a time-worn quarrying facility in Davao Norte in its private capacity (not to mention surprising people by gaining a foothold in the $2-billion Tampakan Mining Project), San Miguel Corp.'s Ang now wants to take over dormant copper mining firm Benguet Mines in Santo Tomas, Davao Norte.

SMA, who is waiting for Philippine Mining Development Corp. to bid out the rights for the mining site, plans to make this a potential investment as it is known to be one of the country's first and largest corporate-led exploration sites on a 2,700-square-meter lot. It has a three-storey building with a floor area of 3,500 square meters.

The building was built back in 1935 and housed the first English-language law school—the Philippine Law School. Notable alumni include Presidents Carlos Garcia and Diosdado Macapagal.

The property is also near Jose Agustin Church, a historic World Heritage Site, and only meters away from other historical places in Cebu such as Manila Cathedral and Fort Santiago.

PSSC chief executive officer Nicolas Deuel says the property is new for sale partly because the growing management expansion trend tends to move closer to its members, most of which are based in the Makati central business district. Tina Arceo-Dumlao

BIZ BUZZ
by the mug!

Bull run to continue, ING predicts

By Dennis L. Lucas

INVESTORS in the local bourse remain relatively conservative with many still on a wait-and-see stance despite the Philippine Stock Exchange having reached historic highs, according to the country's largest equity fund investment trust fund manager.

In a statement, ING Investments Management head and Fund Accountants said the investment premiums to be a case of "once bitten, twice shy."

"Investors who got burned in the global meltdown are not willing yet to join the bull-run party," he said.

Garcia, who is also a senior officer of the Manila unit of ING Bank, said a sign that investors are still waiting on the sidelines is the huge amount of funds going to so-called special deposit accounts (SDAs).

The SDA facility is a fixed-term deposit that banks and investment place with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. As of Sept. 28, 2010, SDA placements amounted to P926 billion or almost P1 trillion mark in the near future.

"Because of the risks, people are hesitant to they are still in SDAs," he said. "These funds are just parked and waiting for a home."

The ING official said that there remains an issue of "getting long-term investors comfortable" with the local market, despite the record highs the bourse's index achieved in recent weeks.

"Eventually they will come in after they realize that putting it in short-term SDAs will not maximize their returns over the long run," he said. "The experts say are not left eating the crumb. The market may just be starting its bull-run phase."

While the Philippine equities market remains one of the smallest in Asia and largely undervalued, corporate returns on equity and dividend yields are nearing all-time highs, Garcia pointed out.

"It's just common sense for long-term investors with the appropriate risk return profile to invest in equities than in SDAs, which only yield 2-4 percent," he added.

While yields are also getting attractive, investors are also more "more forward-looking" on the Philippines.

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Globe nears 100% linkup with Digitel landlines

More interconnection deals seen

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE NETWORKS of Ayala-led Globe Telecom Inc. and rival Gokongwei-owned Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. are almost completely interconnected, helping bring down voice call rates for both firms' landline users across the country.

This follows the recent signing of interconnection deals between the two companies for the linking of their networks in Cagayan de Oro, Batangas and Tacloban.

The commercial activation of local interconnection between Globelines, the wireline service of Globe, and Digitel in Cagayan de Oro took effect last Oct. 12. The interconnection initially covers the municipalities of Tiaong, Lobo, Batangas, Balayan, Ibaan, Calaca, Lemery, Taal, Agoncillo, Talisay and Jose Panganiban.

Both companies also launched local interconnection in Batangas and Tacloban last Oct. 15. The former covers Odiongan, Romblon, Calatrava, Concepcion, Magdiwang, Looc, Romblon, Banton, Cajidiocan, Sibuyan, San Fernando, Romblon, Santa Fe, Alcantara

INFOTECH

Worth wearing those geeky shades for

LG Infinia Full LED Slim 3D TV

By Dimitri L. Lucas

THE LG Infinia TV and 3D glasses

OFFICIALLY called the LG Infinia Full LED Slim 3D TV, the commercial name of LG's latest product can be quite a mouthful.

Physically, however, the flip-stop television line — even the largest unit — of the Korean electronics giant looks respectably unassailable.

The first thing one would notice with the Infinia slim 3D TV is how thin it is. When viewed from its side, it is easy to forget that the screen measures a full 55 inches.

When viewed from the front, the experience can be overwhelming. In a good way.

LG is not kidding when it claims that its newest TV takes you to a place where the walls between the real and virtual worlds dissolve. Cues sure to wow you, hands reach out to touch you, and animals seem to leap right into your living room.

The technical specifications of the LD9500 line — available in 47- or 55-inch models — are just as impressive.

It is one of the slimmest, most elegant sets in the market, delivering pictures with striking brightness, brilliant color and clarity.

Along with deep levels of black and a picture rendered smooth and blur-free, the overall effect is a richer 3D experience (with the supplied 3D glasses, of course).

Beyond the specs, however, there is another very important "feel" for the mind/reason of a high-tech TV system — of any electronic gadget, for that matter. It's sure-of-use without having to read a hundred-page user's manual.

Technophobes will be pleased to learn that it is easy to operate the LG LD9500 line out of the box, even without reading the manual.

Of course, it's always a good practice to read the manual before operating expensive high-tech gadgets, but LG's controls are so intuitive (despite the daunting number of buttons on the remote control unit) that the TV's 3D features were good to go within minutes of the unit's assembly.

Best of all, it can render picture (from hooking DVDs in 3D format, (no video piracy is wrong, just saying.

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INVESTMENT FUND	Net Asset Value Per Unit	
	Initial/Low Date	Latest/New Date
	1.1148	1.1149
MPI Pinoy Peso Equity Fund	1.1481	1.1482

Acer jumps into Android fray

By Raquel P. Gomez

THE ACER Liquid E Ferrari Special Edition

ACER beTouch E130

THE ANDROID invasion continues. Google's now popular and once-propagated open platform mobile operating system now sits in Acer's new smartphones.

The world's third largest PC maker has already ventured into the smartphone space when it acquired Taiwanese handheld device maker E-Ten in 2008. It recently introduced smartphones, from entry-level to high-end, that run on the Android platform.

With the adoption of Android, Acer is serious in capturing a chunk of the smartphone market, which is fast becoming the standard device that instantly connects users to the Internet.

Acer's high-end Android device, the Liquid E has the Android 2.1 Eclair version. It features a 3.5-inch high resolution full-touch capacitive screen. It is powered by the Qualcomm Snapdragon 8250 mobile processor, but only clocked at 768 MHz. In addition to the Snapdragon processor, a built-in graphics accelerator enables the user interface of the phone—populated with graphics and animation—run smoothly and fast.

The Liquid E, with its stunning looks (screen runs infinite onto the black border) and fine structure, is positioned not only as a multimedia device but as a business tool as well. It comes with Exactly Headsync application, which enables Microsoft Exchange Server 2003 and 2007 support. It features Documents To Go, which allows the user to create Microsoft Word, Excel, and Powerpoint files, and view Adobe PDF files.

For the social media fanatics, the phone features Facebook and Twitfreid apps. Tweeting or updating statuses is made easier with three kinds of keyboard layouts. Photos and videos taken with its 5 megapixel camera with autofocus can be geo-tagged or immediately uploaded to Facebook, Twitter or YouTube.

The Liquid E is optimized for watching movies in high-definition 720p quality. It has the capacity to receive video streaming from YouTube at high speeds over Wi-Fi or data (HSDPA 7.2 Mbps).

The Liquid E also features Spotify, a free streaming service that lets users browse and listen to major music labels and record companies. The application also allows the user to instantly post the music on his favorite Social Networking sites.

As it is an Android phone, the Liquid E has access to hundreds of applications in the Android Market.

The Liquid E has a special edition called the Liquid E Ferrari. It has all the hardware, looks, specs and apps of the Liquid E but comes in the Ferrari red color and "prancing horse" logo. It also comes with a Bluetooth wireless headset.

The Liquid E retails at more than P33,000 while the Liquid E Ferrari special edition is priced at P39,900.

Acer also introduced an Android touch handset with full Qwerty keypad. The beTouch E130, which retails for P12,000, is described by Acer officials as a "message master" intending to capture the large segment of mobile phone users that still prefer handsets keys on their phones.

It features a 2.6-inch QVGA touchscreen, a 600-MHz mobile CPU and runs on Android Donut version 1.6. As an Android device, the phone has all the features and apps that connect the user in a host of Google internet-enabled services, like Gmail, Android Market, YouTube, Google Maps, etc. Social apps found in the phone include Facebook, Twitfreid, Spheres and UrPosts.

BUSINESS

Large population may boost economic growth, says BSP

By Reuard W. Domingo

A LARGE population can be a blessing to the Philippines if it is harnessed to drive up domestic demand, especially at a time when emerging economies remain greatly able to record economic recovery, according to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr.

"This can be an advantage if the purchasing power of the population can be improved," Tetangco said in an interview over the weekend.

But raising purchasing power is crucial

The size of a population is also an indicator of potential demand considering that the bigger the population, the higher potential demand there is, the BSP chief explained.

Citing data from the Asian Development Bank's 2010 Key Indicators report, Tetangco said the middle class—defined as those with consumption expenses of between $2 and $20 daily at the value of money 2005—has grown from about a fifth of the total Asian population in 1990 to more than half or 56 percent in 2008.

The ADB estimates that in 2008, the middle class had a spending capacity of $3.3 million, an increase of almost five times from the $721 billion in 1990.

"This purchasing power potential represents a powerful force for future growth," Tetangco said.

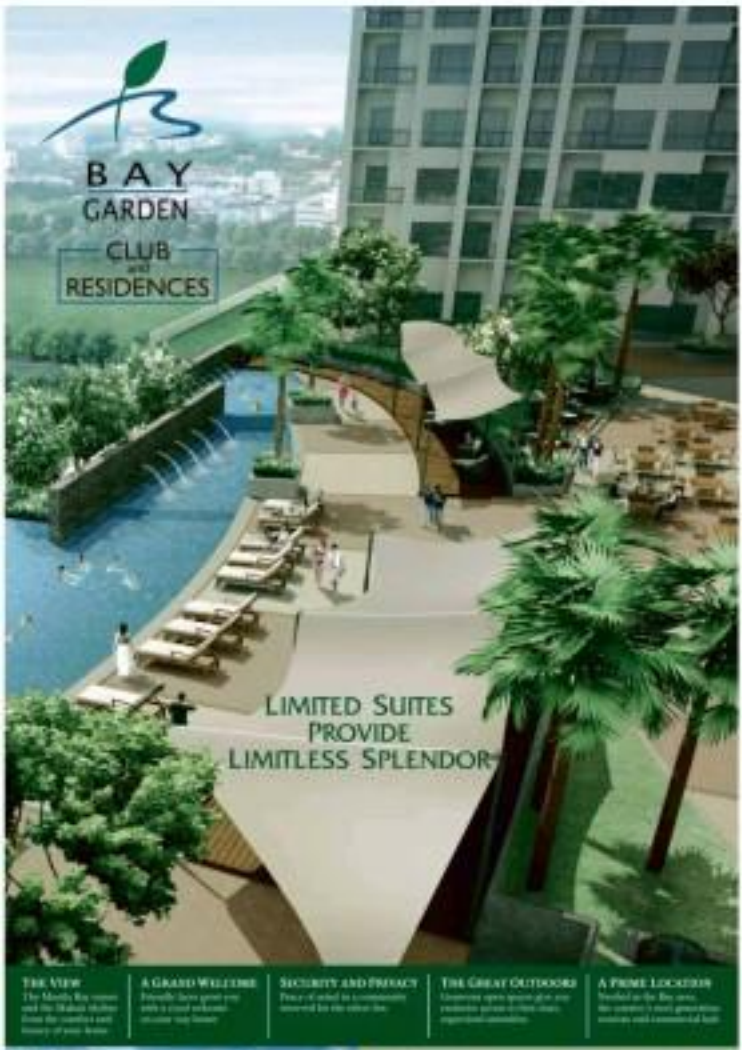
He said this was a key consideration at a time when the disparate levels of development around the world are poised to normalize, as emerging Asian economies see growing strength from domestic spending.

To hasten Asia's strong growth as well as the rise of the Asian middle class, Tetangco said it is important for governments—particularly monetary authorities—to adopt longer-term policies towards strengthening domestic investment and consumption as well as exports.

He said that the region's success continues to be a dynamic force in Asian economies given that, for many small economies, the domestic consumption base is limited and growth prospects are mediocre.

Even then, Tetangco said domestic demand should be developed as a "second engine for growth" in order to promote broadbased, sustained growth.

"For growth to be sustainable and productive for future generations, consideration should be given to the environment-friendly policies and actions," he added.



Philippine exports to Japan up 23%

By Abigail L. Mo

THE VALUE of local goods shipped to Japan jumped 23.4 percent to almost $5.1 billion in the first eight months, from nearly $4.1 billion in the same period last year.

According to data from the Japan External Trade Organization, imports from the country's second largest trading partner likewise increased to $7.1 billion as of end-August, a 49.4-percent surge from the $4.8 billion recorded a year earlier.

In the January-August period, the Philippines accounted for 1.1 of Japan's imports and 0.3 percent of exports.

Japan registered a trade surplus of more than $2.1 billion from January-August.

In August alone, total exports to the world's third largest economy grew 14.3 percent to $302.9 million, from the same month last year's $272.9 million.

Imports from Japan, on the other hand, expanded to $958.6 million, 33.4 percent higher than the $736.9 million posted in the same month the year before.

Japan sourced 1.1 percent of its imports from and shipped 1.6 percent of its exports to the Philippines in August.

The government is exerting more effort to encourage Japanese buyers to try Philippine goods, leveraging on the benefits of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement.

Ms. Lourdes Medina, executive director of the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, stated that the agency received some additional budget for next year, most of which would be focused on the promotion of local goods to Japanese buyers.

"We want to bring more Japanese buyers here," the official said in an interview.

While semiconductors continued to be the country's main export product to Japan—and to other parts of the world, for that matter—China was gaining significant emphasis on promoting other Philippine products in the global stage.

Goods from the creative industries including furniture and furnishings, footwear and shoes, and fashion wearables, as well as various raw and processed food are some of those that China is now pushing.

Medina said the country should be able to sell not just sporadic products, but entire industries.

"We have to tell the country and the republic of our industries," she said, noting that focus should be given to lifestyle industries, food, and business process outsourcing.

BUSINESS

Mang Inasal CEO bullish on growth with Jollibee

By Hector P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—While saddened by the parting with his "child," the president and chief executive officer of the popular Mang Inasal fast-food chain has assured his franchisees that the sale of the controlling share of his company to giant Jollibee Food Corp. (JFC) for P3 billion is for the good of the company and the investors.

"Like a father parting with his child, it is with deep sadness that I hand over the care of Mang Inasal to the JFC group. But looking beyond the pain and sadness, I am ecstatic and in high spirits knowing that the future of my seven-year-old child is secured and filled with great optimism," Mang Inasal Philippines Inc. (MIPI) president and chief executive officer Edgar "Injap" Sia II said in a statement passed on the company website.

Sia told the Inquirer that the transaction was "a gift to franchisees (as they would) be part of the JFC group, the largest food chain in the country, as par with the world standard and most of all, a Filipino-owned company."

"With JFC group's vast network and invaluable experience in the quick-serve restaurant chain operation, I am very confident of Mang Inasal's sustained growth as a brand and as a business," Sia added in his statement.

In the Oct. 18 disclosure of JFC posted on the Philippine Stock Exchange website, JFC chief finance officer and vice president Fernan Ibaya said the giant international food chain acquired 70 percent of Mang Inasal Philippines Inc. from Injap Investments Inc. (Injap) for around P3 billion with P980 million paid as initial payment.

EDGAR "Injap" Sia II

Sia will retain a 30-percent interest in the company.

JFC said the acquisition of Mang Inasal was estimated to increase its worldwide system sales by 5 percent and its revenues by 5 percent.

The company's net operating revenues are likewise expected to increase by 7 percent due to the addition of the Mang Inasal chain.

Mang Inasal, considered the fastest-growing fast-food chain in the country, has 303 branches considerable as of Dec. 10 with 24 company-owned branches and 279 franchisees.

MIPI has P2.6 billion in annual revenues and system-wide sales of P3.8 billion, according to the JFC disclosure.

The JFC has 1,955 stores worldwide (275 abroad) as of Sept. 30 including 703 Jollibee branches, 404 Chowking, 218 Greenwich, 215 Red Ribbon, 23 Delifrance and 15 Mang Hopi's stores.

Sia said that with his partnership with JFC, he has full confidence that the Mang Inasal "will reap the benefits of cost improvement of supplies, greater operational efficiency, reliable and responsive on-demand servicing and well structured and professionally managed organization."

Asked whether he would allow the team of Mang Inasal's franchisee-holders to be changed and to price increased, Sia replied, paraphrasing a cliché: "Why change it when it isn't broke."

However, the mega-transaction caught franchisees by surprise. They had expected the company to go for an initial public offering (IPO) in the first quarter of 2011.

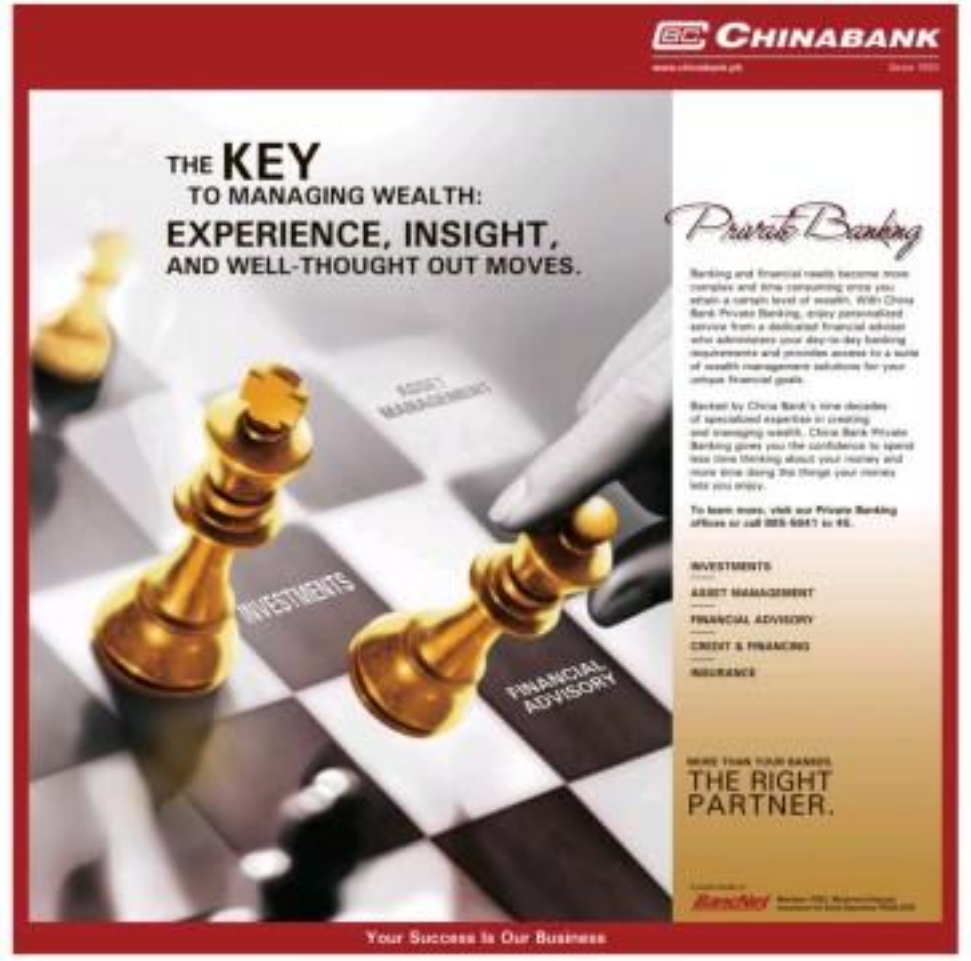
"Everyone was caught by surprise because many franchisees are interested in putting up additional branches and in buying shares of the company if the IPO had pushed through," a franchise-holder told the Inquirer on condition of anonymity, because the sale of Mang Inasal has not yet been completed.

The franchisee holder said that while franchisees have confidence in JFC's experience and resources to develop the company they were also concerned about the direction that the Mang Inasal food chain would be taking.

Sia, who opened the first Mang Inasal branch in Iloilo City on Dec. 12, 2003, said, however, that the interest of franchise holders and the company would be assured under JFC.

The 34-year-old CEO added.

FARM INASAL IV



Japanese car maker steps up efforts to reduce carbon footprint

By Abigail L. Ho

RECOGNIZING THAT vehicles are big contributors to pollution, Honda Cars Philippines Inc. is stepping up efforts to reduce its own carbon footprint by implementing various environment-saving measures in its Sta. Rosa, Laguna, manufacturing facility.

In a speech during the celebration of the company's 20th anniversary, Honda Philippines president and general manager Hiroaki Shimizu said that from 2006, the car manufacturer had slashed carbon emissions from its production activities by as much as 20 percent.

This was achieved through the implementation of energy demand-side management activities, as well as energy efficiency and conservation measures, including the conduct of energy audits and the installation of energy-efficient equipment and lighting systems.

Shimizu related that the company has also embarked on a waste reduction program that aims to eliminate manufacturing-related wastes by next year.

Efforts directed at achieving this goal included the reduction and segregation of various waste products, the use of recyclable packaging for the shipment of imports, and the treatment of its hazardous waste materials through eco-safe technology.

Honda Motor Co., the car maker's Japanese parent, is constantly conducting research on automotive technologies that will reduce carbon emissions.

Yoichiro Shimokawa, general manager of Honda's environment and safety planning office, said the company was working hard to commercialize the rollout of vehicle models using electrotechnologies.

"The shift to electrotechnologies is one of the most effective ways to reduce carbon emissions," he said.

Honda earlier in the year launched a real-world demonstration program of its eleven motorcycles and automobiles, in cooperation with Japan's Kumamoto and Saitama prefectures.

These personal mobility products, powered by electrotechnology, were used in a mainstream urban setting to determine the effectiveness of such vehicles under normal driving conditions and to study how the fuel-efficient urban transportation system should be designed to provide the most improvement to overall quality of life.

Honda also sells hybrid vehicles to other markets, but is not inclined to do so until after 2015, when the number of such vehicles go down to zero under the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement.

Malampaya group denies shortchanging gov't

Revenue-sharing scheme provided by law

By Amy R. Remo

GOVERNMENT TAKE will not suffer the brunt of the line the consortium operating the $3.5-billion Malampaya gas project in offshore Palawan wrongly imposed allegations that it had shortchanged the government by as much as P53 billion.

Reacting for the first time on these allegations, Shell Philippines Exploration BV legal manager Bill Card told the business that the division or sharing of the proceeds from the Malampaya field was based on Presidential Decree 87, also known as the oil exploration and development law.

"I think it's a fact question as to why the corporate income tax is coming out of the 60 percent share of the government from the Malampaya proceeds. This is just part of the structure that was defined by PD 87," he said in an interview on the first republican investment for energy security. There are a number of incentives (included in it as well," Card explained.

Under PD 87, the government is authorized to grant certain incentives to the contractor, including exemption from all taxes except income tax (Sec. 32(a)). Income tax paid from 60-percent government share (Sec. 18 (E)), and ability to recover costs under certain limitations (Sec. 8(G)).

The Commission on Audit (COA) earlier found that the corporate income taxes of the service contractors were deducted from the government's 60-percent share of the net proceeds from the sale of natural gas and condensates from Malampaya. This, it claimed, effectively relieved the contractors from the task of paying income taxes.

COA claimed that this scheme resulted in government losses amounting to P53.14 billion between 2002 and 2009.

These findings had prompted members of Congress to question the division of proceeds from the project.

Covered by Service Contract 38, the Malampaya project involves the natural gas fields of service contractors are the US-based Chevron, Inpex-Dutch Shell Exploration and the country's PNOC Exploration Corp., which has a 10-percent stake in the service contract.

Card noted that this kind of sharing of proceeds was a standard feature and incentive in all Philippine petroleum and geothermal service contracts. It was not only SC 38 that has this incentive, but practically all the service contractors have this type of provision.

"This provides stability because if the tax rates are increased, the contractor is immune. There are some of the most stable arrangements in the world," Card said.

"Having this structure actually is one way of attracting investment into the sector. Our position as a consortium is that the payment of corporate income tax from the government's 60-percent share is authorized under PD 87 which is the governing law. Secondly, the service contract itself provides for it," he stressed.

According to Card, it is not only the Philippine government that provides this scheme but also the governments of other countries such as Egypt, Nigeria, Trinidad & Tobago, Canada and Oman.

Card said this was the first time the consortium was giving its side because the issue was between the Department of Energy and COA, who issued the department's interpretation of the law.

"But, of course we are concerned because ultimately, if the decision is not reversed, then the DOE will try to collect from us," Card added.

Alma M. Reyes, director of the Energy Resource Development Bureau at the DOE, told the business that the department has already informed the consortium, adding that energy-offtake have already explained this issue to their resident COA supervisors. With these findings already out, the DOE is expected to set the issue on the regional COA level.

Reyes noted that keeping the decision would be a big disincentive to both existing and prospective investors as this would see source of taxation evasion from petroleum and geothermal projects, which are usually high-risk ventures.

"Having this structure actually is one way of attracting investment into the sector. Our position as a consortium is that the payment of corporate

NETGEAR president and chief executive officer Zach Nelson (right) answers questions from the media during the launch of NetGeAr On-World PH, the first cloud-based ERP suite for the Philippine market. With him are (from left) company vice president and general manager Jose Emmanuel Craig Sullivan and James Davison, vice president for worldwide support and general manager for the Philippines.

Truck and feared

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Bunsol III

IT SEEMS our government wants to help foreign motor companies here to make even more money—at the expense of everybody else.

By our brilliant DTI thinks that, in the process, it cannot avoid but kill hundreds, maybe even thousands, of Filipino small businesses.

That, mind you, is the very same Department of Trade and Industry that insists supposedly is developing local companies.

We are talking about the Duty Exemption and Drawback Program of the DTI, under implementing rules and regulations for a revised government program for those lucky motor companies.

In particular, the DTI has decided to ban the importation of used trucks, particularly right-hand drive trucks from Japan.

Its entire industry for converting the trucks to left-hand drive is dedicated in the country, owing to the brisk demand for used (i.e. cheap) trucks among small businesses.

The DTI, perhaps would want the foreign motor companies to bank on the good domestic market for trucks.

Thus the DTI crafted some rules that, in effect, would eliminate the used truck component in the "brand new" trucks sold by those foreign motor companies.

It did not matter to our beloved DTI that the fortunate foreign companies, already enjoying DTI protection for the past 60 years, were supposedly semi-developed.

Bueya, the DTI must insist on the importation ban on used trucks from the cheapest source possible on this planet—i.e. Japan.

Anyway, the buyers of those cheap used trucks were just small businesses. Just how on earth do they survive now?—by going back to horse-drawn carriages?

* * *

In 70 DAYS, the DTI rules should only implement an executive order issued by the epic administration of Gloria-ra in its waning days—about 27 days to go.

That was none other than the controversial EO 877 that is straining to save passengers for the automotive sector, inked this time as the CMVDP or the Comprehensive Motor Vehicle Development Program.

But do you also wonder why the executive order had a "dash A?" I mean, what is EO 877 (without the "dash A") all about then, if it exists at all?

From what I gathered, the kids at the Palace already signed EO 877, rumoring the same CMVDP, which the Palace released to the public.

It so happened that the foreign motor companies, which are into assembly of vehicles (from mostly imported parts and literary themselves as "vehicle manufacturers," still wanted some more provisions inserted in the executive order for the new program.

And so it seems that the DTI had to lend to the Lolo a new version of the executive order, which was still called EO 877 but with the "dash A."

Anyway, even under the Aquino (Pare II) administration, the DTI was rather serious about the new program, possibly to appease the opposition to the controversial EO 877.

For one, it did not even call for a single quick freaking meeting with those little guys in the used truck-converting and selling business, regarding the importation ban.

Mysteriously quiet also was the group called Campi—the Chamber of Automobile Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc. (Phoo, just say, the term "manufacturer").

All sorts of conferences have been going around on the final outcome of the DTI rules implementing EO 877 "dash A." Another group in the automotive business even made motions against the executive order, hoping that it would clip things in favor of the members of Campi. The motion were left unanswered.

Supposedly, the new program CMVDP should help to develop our automotive manufacturing industry, apparently still to its infancy after about four decades.

The new program supposedly has been supporting the automotive industry for the past 60 years or so with all sorts of fiscal incentives and tariff protection.

But up to today, after all those supposed government programs, those foreign motor companies are only just assembling a few types of vehicles here.

Actually, most of the vehicles they sell here are still imported completely from Japan, the United States, South Korea, and Europe.

What "manufacturing" are we talking about?

* * *

ANYWAY, the DTI perhaps wanted to pursue the automotive program, giving it a new twist (though a brand new acronym CMVDP fity the sun), since upon a time, the program was called CMOP.

Well and good. Perhaps, after 60 years of so or performance, the program can still succeed finally. We are all for it, then.

But just why on earth must the DTI also ban the importation of the much needed used trucks, is really beyond our comprehension.

Unless we ... perhaps to kill the competition for the benefit of those foreign motor companies selling imported brand new trucks?

To start with, those imported brand new trucks are not even available. In one of his many press statements, the president of Campi, Elizabeth Lee, senior vice president of Universal Motors (seller of Nissan vehicles), noted that sales of brand new trucks were rather slow because of the "unavailability of units."

Let us even say that, all of a sudden, by some miracles or something, the foreign motor companies would indeed start to flood the market with brand new trucks.

The question is, can the main market for those trucks—the small businesses—even afford the new trucks?

BREAKTIME 10/15

Newly formed company to tap Russian tourists

By Paolo G. Montecillo

A LOCAL company plans to bring in more high-spending Russian tourists to the Philippines to help develop the country's tourism industry, which has been lagging behind its neighbors in the region.

In a recent briefing, listed gaming firm PHWR Inc. announced the launch of Eastern Asia Philippines, a joint venture with Singapore's Guglielmi Holdings Pte. Ltd. Guglielmi, through subsidiary Eastern Asia Singapore, currently handles 80 percent of all Russian tourist in Singapore.

PHWR chief Rainier Garcia Jr. said the Russian tourist market was still largely untapped by the Philippines. In the meantime, the country's neighbors, particularly Thailand, have high-spending Russian visitors numbering in the hundreds of thousands every year.

"These are the highest-spending tourists in the world. They like the beaches and outdoor. We have the best of those here in the Philippines," Garcia said.

The current leader in the market for Russian tourists is Thailand. Garcia said, which has 200,00 to 400,000 Russian tourists every year. The Philippines pulls in the equivalent with just 14,000 Russian visitors in 2009.

A Russian tourist using Eastern Asia's services will be shocked to see a five-star hotel immediately after arriving in Manila. From there, the tourist can choose to be flown off in a helicopter to any of the country's premiere beach resorts nationwide.

"Russians know what they want, and they are all high spenders," Garcia said.

Asia Pac ad spending seen to grow by 11.4%

HEDGING ON the growth momentum of economies that were hardly affected by the global economic advertising spending in the Asia Pacific excluding Japan (APEJ) is seen expanding by 11.4 percent this year.

According to Zenith media services (Inc. ZenithOptimedia, ad revenue from the APEJ region should reach more than $136 billion this year. Ireland media be expected to developed countries in eight members, including the Philippines.

Other markets expected to register double-digit growth in ad spending are China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam.

If the Japanese market would be included into the equation, Asia Pacific ad revenue growth would be a relatively sluggish 6.3 percent in 2012.

This already took into consideration the slight improvement that ZenithOptimedia projected for Japan this year. From an initial forecast of a 0.7 percent decline in ad revenues, the media services agency now estimated. The Japanese ad market to shrink by just 0.3 percent.

Over the next few years, we expect slow improvement in Japan, together with continued strong growth from the rest of the region, generating 6.3-percent growth for Asia Pacific in 2013, followed by 6.4 percent in 2014, and 7.0 percent in 2015," ZenithOptimedia said in its forecast report.

Globally, ZenithOptimedia placed 2012 ad revenue growth at 4.8 percent to $449.5 billion, an upgrade from the company's last forecast of a 3.3-percent expansion.

It likewise jacked up its 2011 projection to a 6.6-percent growth from an initial estimate of a 4.9 percent increase in ad spending. This, however, represented a "minor slowdown after the surprisingly strong growth of 2010."

Television in the developed markets remain cautious about the future, and will not commit to multiyear expansion plans while unemployment and debt remain so high, and government spending restrictions the recovery in demand," ZenithOptimedia explained.

"Our forecasts for ad expenditure growth remain below the expected growth in nominal (gross domestic product), which is growing at about 6 percent a year throughout our forecast period, advertising has fallen as a proportion of GDP from 0.88 percent in 2007 to 0.75 percent in 2011, and will dip to 0.74 per cent in 2012. Once advertisers are confident that the economic outlook will be sustained, we can expect growth in ad expenditure to exceed the 6-percent GDP growth rate," it added.

In terms of advertising medium, television would continue to hold the lion's share of spending at 40.7 percent, translating to total revenues of $188.4 billion. Newspaper would remain on second place, with ad spending seen reaching $94.4 billion this year, for a 21.1-percent share of the pie.

Abigail L. Ho

Wall Street enters week with caution

NEW YORK—Wall Street heads into this week hesitantly after a third week of gains following a flood of robust corporate earnings and a bit rosier outlook for the US economy.

Traders will also closely follow the US dollar after last weekend's meeting of the Group of 20 major rich and developed economies.

The G20 meeting in South Korea comes amid a cloud of warnings of a "currency war" between debtor nations such as the United States and export giants such as China.

Last week, the Dow Jones Industrial Average won up 0.65 percent to 11,232.56 points after it neared its highest level since September 2008 on Thursday.

The broader S&P 500 index rose 0.58 percent to 1,183.08 points, while the technology-rich Nasdaq composite index rose 0.42 percent to 2,495.29 points.

The ending week saw a throng of market heavyweights in all major sectors post overall strong quarterly results, boosting confidence in the economy.

The beleaguered airline industry was given a shot in the arm after major US carriers, including the world's largest, newly created United Continental, came out with strong quarterly profits and an upbeat outlook.

However, banks posted mixed results, as Bank of America found itself in new troubled waters after a group of institutional investors, including the New York Federal Reserve, sued the bank for billions for failing to repay bad mortgage debt loans.

The more upbeat economic outlook was reinforced after data showed a decline in weekly jobless claims and after the Federal Reserve said the economy was growing at a "modest" pace.

The optimism, however, did not weaken confidence among investors that the Fed will renew major asset purchases in a bid to resuscitate the flagging economy, in what is known as quantitative easing (QE).

This Friday's first estimate of third-quarter gross domestic product could play a key role in the central bank's decision on easing measures. Most analysts expect a 2.4-percent expansion in economic output.

"The GDP number is going to be the big number. GDP estimates have steadily been revised upwards over the past weeks and when that number comes in still really lately inflame the QE debate," Greenbaum said.

Investors will also look closely at Tuesday's consumer confidence index as economists continue to worry about the weak economy and high unemployment.

Share earnings reports from major companies, including Microsoft, Texas Instruments, ExxonMobil and Chevron, are also keenly awaited. AFP

Mang Inasal CEO bullish on growth with Jollibee

From page B7

that JFC's acquisition of the majority stake in Mang Inasal would mean increased revenues, more opportunities and better service for the franchisees and patrons.

He also said that he and his youngest brother and Mang Inasal chief operating officer, Ferdinand Ila, would be resigning two board seats in the new organization and would remain part of the management committee in the coming years, to ensure that Mang Inasal's vision would be fulfilled.

Ila said their presence in Mang Inasal's management committee would also ensure continued access of the franchisee holders to management.

"This will also guarantee that your voice will be heard every step of the way," he said.

Ila, who was born in Iloilo City and grew up in Bacolod City in Cagayan before putting up business in Iloilo, also owns the Dunos La Paz Batchoy chain, Pensionado Hotel and other businesses.

He established the barbecued food industry by putting up the country's first barbecue barbecued food chain chicken restaurant room, thus challenging the more established fast-food chains in the country.

Globe nears 100% link-up ...

From page B1

arthel Tinio the same priorities, and vice versa," head of Globe's national carrier relations Mobile Jacinto said.

"We are currently working on previous cable head interconnection with Digitel for Cagayan Norte, Surigao and Bataan and we expect these to be completed by yearend," he said.

Globe and Digitel are also currently pursuing interconnection of their networks in Borongan, Nueva Vizcaya and Legazpi, Quezon.

The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) mandates compulsory interconnection of phone firms under Republic Act No. 7925. This aims to create a universally accessible and fully integrated network to encourage infrastructure investments from the private sector that benefit consumers.

Globe earlier said it was keen on more interconnection agreements with rival phone firms as part of efforts to reach more subscribers, to increase the affordability of communications, and to spur development in key growth areas outside Metro Manila.

Market breather seen ...

From page B1

up much on week.

Among last Friday's top performers were Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co., which soared 3.41 percent or P3.45 to P74; Bloomberg Power Corp. which gained 3.06 percent or P1.85 to P28; Alliance Global Group Inc. which increased 1.47 percent or 1¢ centavos to P71.02.

A trader said stocks in the 30-company index may be overshadowed by Cebu Air Inc.'s listing. The company, currently a wholly-owned unit of holding firm JG Summit, will list shares on Tuesday, making it this year's first IPO.

JG Summit plans to sell a 33-percent stake in the company, which operates budget carrier Cebu Pacific, with proceeds to be used for the expansion of the parent's other businesses in the telecommunications, banking and food and beverage sectors.

It expects to raise as much as P15.3 billion, without having to exercise an option to sell even more shares. This makes it one of the largest IPOs in Philippine history.

Cebu Air earlier said the local and foreign portions of its IPO already have buyers. Rondo G. Mercurio

Breaktime

From page B8

allowed to keep the brand new imported trucks?

Based on the price lists of these foreign motor companies, one unit can cost more than P9 million. Go ahead and check it on the Internet.

The used trucks from Japan (converted from right-hand to left-hand drive) sell for about one-fourth of that price. How do the math.

BUSINESS

Telco-type 'war' seen in digital cable TV industry

Next battleground for ratings-obsessed networks

By Paolo G. Montecillo

CABLE TELEVISION providers have lost tens of billions of pesos in the last decade due to signal theft.

Industry players estimate that the scale of illegal to illegal subscriptions is once in an era.

Some have said the legislation of reviews laws against households that have illegal cable TV connections will be enough to scare violators into paying for their HBO.

But the real solution, industry groups say, will be in the digital cable TV technology that makes signals theft, which is so easy with the analog system currently being used, near to impossible.

New revenue streams

Television network Associated Broadcasting Corp. (ABC) 5 or TV5, led by its chairty newscaster Manuel V. Pangilinan, is the latest company to pledge a huge sum of money to develop digital TV.

Canada-headquartered technology solution XMC Inc. believes that digital cable can be the next battleground for ratings-obsessed television networks.

"The main potential in this market is not from just upgrading a viewer's experience at a movie or game show. The potential is in the other services that can be sold on top of the TV programs. This will be the major new revenue stream," XMC principal analyst Philipp Hall said in a recent interview.

Earlier, TV5 owner Nine Cignal said it had spent P1.5 billion for the rollout of its satellite TV network nationwide. Its new digital cable television service started in July.

Ray Espinosa, president of Cignal parent firm MediaQuest Holdings Inc., said the company was focused on providing households nationwide with 100 percent digital signal readiness regardless of the kind of television set they use.

He projected that Cignal subscribers would grow 120,000 this year from the current 90,000.

Also aggressive in the digital cable TV space is SkyCable, currently the country's largest cable TV provider. The subsidiary of broadcast giant ABS-CBN, SkyCable said it planned to spend about P2 to P3 billion capex this year to develop its digital cable service.

By the end of the year, it hopes to get 60 percent of its 800,000 analog cable TV subscribers to switch to digital.

"Global content providers are supporting the efforts of the cable industry led by market leader SkyCable in the digitization of cable services that would deliver superior viewing experience while offering user-friend television intelligence," the company said in a previous statement.

Markets switching

SkyCable also sees its digital cable TV infrastructure for its high-speed broadband Internet services, which are common in the fastest available to households in the country.

XMC's Hall said digital cable, unlike traditional broadcasting, gave companies a new revenue stream outside of advertising. "Broadcast TV only earns revenue from advertising...cable TV earns subscription revenue as well," Hall said.

"The market is changing. It is not just about the delivery of the content—it is about owning the customer," he said.

"Cable is a good lock-in, especially if you are an early owner, because if the whole building or street has fiber cable, one person is unlikely to change," he added.

Early owners also have an advantage, given the high cost of rolling out cable networks.

"It is not acceptable to do this multiple times so the early movers gain an advantage because others will come to them to use their infrastructure," he said.

And to put it bluntly, broadcasters will have no other choice but to switch and compete in the digital space.

Tougher competition

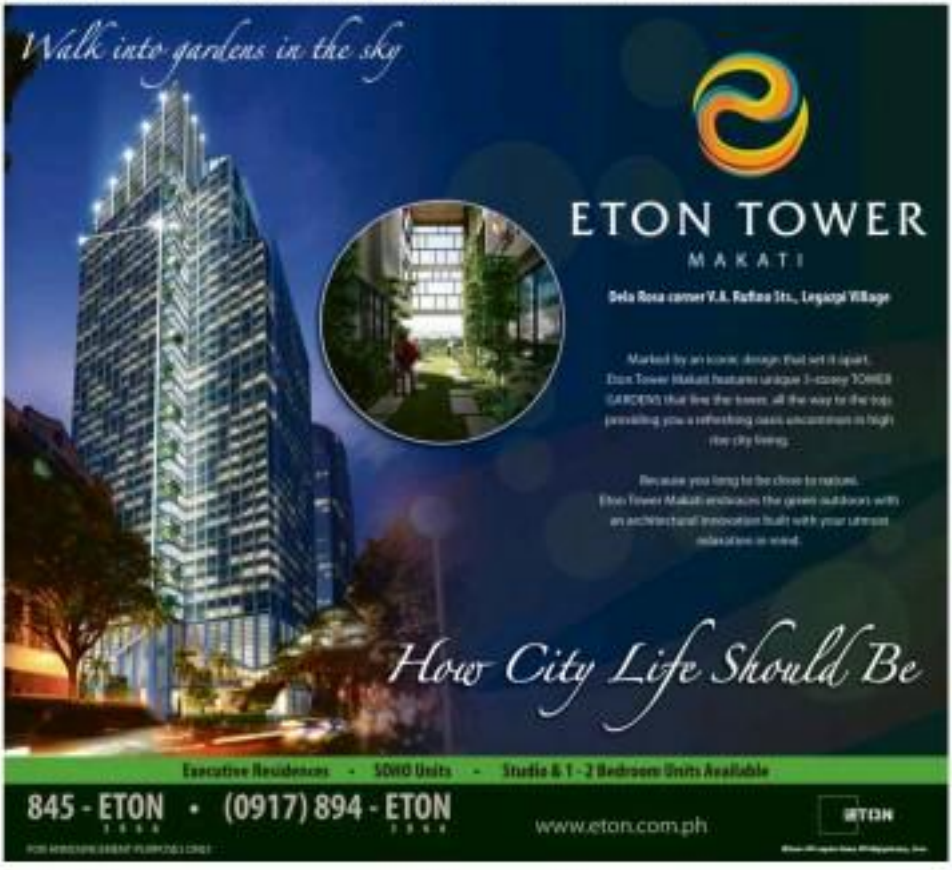
At present, the International Telecommunications Union has given the Philippines up to 2015 to completely abandon analog and switch on digital.

With this, cable TV providers need to prepare for the intensity of competition that they need to face on the industry progresses.

Competition and new technology will lead to a similar scenario in TV networks as in mobiles...there will be a high level of "churn" as customers switch because of better local service, content or technology.

This will benefit consumers especially if they can attract subscribers with lower prices, similar to how Globe upset local fixed-line Cellular entered the telecommunications space. GMA Network Inc. currently the country's second largest media conglomerate, has declared that it would be a slow starter in the digital race. "This will be a fickle market," Hall said.

Hall said prices, as well as profit margins, would fall due to competition.



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BUSINESS Monday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

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Adidas bullish on RP's retail scene

By Dexter L. Lunas

HOW SHOULD a company take control of a market that has long been dominated by its rival's irresistible brand?

At the same time, how does an apparel firm expand its presence in a potentially lucrative market segment that its peers are exploring?

Adidas believes it has the answers.

Last week, the global footwear and apparel firm introduced its newest brand, the Adidas Neo—aimed at winning over the teenage market and this demographic bracket's substantial buying power.

In an interview, Adidas country manager Nolet Pons said segmenting the market by introducing a new product line will allow the firm's eager clientele to identify more closely with the brand.

"We have always been known as a brand with premium pricing," he says, noting that there is also a large number of Adidas buyers who demand "value"—a marketing industry euphemism for the budget-conscious. "Now we also want to connect with the younger set."

Pons points out that the local retail industry contributes to about 13 percent of the country's gross national product (GNP) and employs an estimated 1.8 percent of the Philippine workforce. In 2009 alone, retail sales amounted to a total of P2.1 billion or about P1 trillion in the preceding five years.

About one-third of this amount is attributable to the apparel industry where Adidas is a major player.

According to Business Monitor International (BMI), retail sales may reach up to P48 billion (about P1.7 trillion) by 2014.

There is a strong underlying economic growth in the Philippines, including an increase in population, rise of consumer spending, and the development of retail infrastructures, including malls in and out of Metro Manila.

This growth in population represents a key element of future retail spending.

According to the National Statistics Office, there are over 9.6 million teens alone with ages 15-19 in the country as of 2010. About 1.3 million of them live in Metro Manila.

At the same time, BMI says that about 50 percent of the country's retail sales are concentrated in the the capital and its immediate environs.

Adidas has long been present in the Philippines with brands like Sports Performance, Originals and Skills McCarron, to name a few.

Given the strong growth and expansion of the local retail industry, the former German brand is now taking the opportunity to score in the younger market.

"Adidas has done very well in the Philippines when it comes to sports shoes and apparel," Adidas 80.1

ADIDAS Neo offers something fresh and new to the youth of today.

FROM left: Adidas Country Manager Nolet Pons, Juana Cojuangco, CEO of Scion Mission Group and her husband

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The next four billion

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Lydia C. Saavedra

WILLIAM "BILL" Kramer was in town recently upon the invitation of Fundacion Codespa, a Spanish NGO operating here in the Philippines, which assists marginalized communities through enterprise development.

During a recent conference which they sponsored, "Philippine Economy: Opportunities and strategies for the bottom of the Pyramid," one of their invited speakers was Kramer, co-author of the publication, The Next 4 Billion.

What is the Next 4 Billion?

"Next billion low-income people, a majority of the world's population, contribute the base of the economic pyramid. New empirical measures of their behavior as consumers and their aggregate purchasing power suggest significant opportunities for market-based approaches to better meet their needs, increase their productivity and incomes and empower their entry into the formal economy," The Next 4 Billion, silver Underwood, William Kramer, Robert Lee, Aditi Sen and Courtland Bullen.

On Oct. 14, the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) hosted a breakfast roundtable discussion attended by some of its members on CSR advancements in frontiers understood and learn from Kramer's experiences. MAP likewise invited representatives from the academe and civil society, so that, together, they may identify areas of collaboration. Thus the theme, "Bridging Partnerships at the Bottom of the Pyramid."

We have an immense wealth of goodwill in this country. Individuals, families and corporations are there, thus willing to help those who have less in life, those who are at the base of the economic pyramid. However, most interventions have been short-term, reactionary and in the nature of charitable patronage. We tend to look at the marginalized as beneficiaries of our largesse.

Kramer and discussants describe those at the bottom of the pyramid as those with annual income of less than $1,000 in fixed purchasing power.

They have no access to water, sanitation, electricity and basic health care. Many live in informal settlements with no access to formal financial services. They depend on basic to non-basic infrastructure are realizable to both man-made and natural calamities, and often powerless to move out of their present situation.

The condition is dire enough and yet they continue to be jaundiced by having to pay more for basic services and settle for inferior quality of products and services available to them.

Kramer, in his talk, shared stories of how other companies in other countries have utilized their strategies to bringing this sector by looking at them not as beneficiaries but as markets for new products and services, which can help move them out of their poverty.

Market-based approaches

He called these market-based approaches to poverty reduction.

For companies, this means developing new products that are within their means and engaging them further in market-based enterprises.

Kramer defines market-based approaches by recognizing that this sector, despite limited resources, still tends to have unmet needs and, within their limits, are nevertheless consumers. The challenge to business is to develop products that meet those needs and make them accessible given their purchasing power.

Particularly for the Philippines, we have commanding local models that have been recognized here and around the world.

Manila Water, awardee of the first MAP CSR Leadership Challenge's "Most Integrated Award," has been acknowledged as shining example of a success-ful public private partnership, specifically in delivering basic services at the bottom of the pyramid.

The high chair flagship program, "Taba Para sa Batang Gatas" or water for the community, they have made available the most basic of human needs ...clean water...in communal tap which in the past have had to pay somewhat dear for it. To date, 1.6 million people from low income communities have access to clean water.

This has resulted in greater savings for families by bringing down the cost of clean water significantly. Water-borne diseases decreased and sanitation has improved tremendously. Manila Water's reputation as a responsible company has boosted its standing in the business community, garnering awards here and abroad. Their share value and homeowner have been equally enhanced. Their S&P rating is richly deserved.

Smart is the leading wireless service provider in the country today with over 41.2 million subscribers as of March 2010. Smart built its reputation as an innovator providing much-needed mobile consumer services for OFWs and their families and to micro-entrepreneurs. Helping them the cost of their products and services have enabled millions of OFWs as stay connected to their families.

They have also enabled micro-entrepreneurs to connect to markets and maximize the value of cash transactions through their cell phones. From tie-up with the shopping project has connected the ubiquitous sari-sari stores to wholesale suppliers, bringing closer their cost and enhancing their profitability.

Jollibee, the phenomenal Filipino company that started as an ice cream parlor in 1975, has grown to be the most successful food chain in recent history and franchising history. This has enabled Jollibee's Tony Tan Caktiong, the 2009 world Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award from Ernst & Young.

Supply chain

Jollibee is among the big players that have ventured in to working directly with their supply chains to help vegetable farmers supply their needs of their numerous food outlets. They are presently working with some 150 farmers to improve the quality of their produce and get better margins for them. It is a success-story many for Jollibee triggered by top management's commitment to assist the bottom of the economic pyramid.

There are others like them —like Miguel Corp., Unilab Laboratories, Splash Corp., SM and Search Supermarket which are re-engineering their strategies to reach out to their value chains beyond purely commercial interests.

That breakfast forum opened new avenues for collaboration. NGOs like Preda on Tap and PBE, Development Assistance Program (PDAP), and Fundacion Codespa sats out here are with CSOs, demanding possible convergence points. The MAP CSR Committee, through the MAP Executive Academy, hopes to continue learning from others like Bill Kramer to ensure supplies that will help fulfill up the balance between their profits and their social responsibilities.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of its author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is governor in charge of the MAP CSR Committee and chair of the Corporate Social Responsibility Institute. Feedback at mapphilippines.com.ph. For previous articles, please visit www.map.org.ph.)

MOVEMENTS

Fuji Xerox appoints Sales Manager

FUJI XEROX, the market leader in printing technologies and innovations, has appointed Caroline Dizon-Lim as its new Country Sales Manager for its Fuji Xerox Printer Channel business in the Philippines.

Dizon-Lim will be responsible for optimizing the sales and marketing strategies, and for the growth and development of the Fuji Xerox Printer Channel business in the Philippines.

Discovery Suites appoints new executives

DISCOVERY SUITES General Manager Bobby Morigan has announced the appointments of Cristina Faye B. Tio as the hotel's new Director of Banquets and Events Sales.

A graduate of Bachelor of Science in Tourism at the University of the Philippines, Tio has been with the Discovery Group for almost 6 years.

Having started as an Account Executive in 2003, she rose from the ranks as an Associate Manager, Manager and Assistant Director.

She was moved to Events as Assistant Director of Banquets and Events Sales in January of this year.

In her new position as Director of Banquets and Events Sales, Tio will ensure the revenue, publicity, client support and social functions required of Discovery Suites.

Discovery Suites, Discovery Country Suites Tagaytay and Discovery Shores Boracay are developed and owned by the Discovery Leisure Company, Inc. (TBLC).

The Discovery Collection of resorts and hotels is managed by HBA Philippine Hospitality Management.

Oakwood Premier welcomes executive assistant manager

OAKWOOD PREMIER Joy-Nostalg Center Manila announces the appointment of its new executive assistant manager, Hamed E. Montmar. His responsibilities cover all aspects of operations including Front Office, Housekeeping, Guest Relations, Food and Beverage and The Fitness Center by Oakwood.

General Manager Brandt Connelly says, "Hamed's impressive credentials further strengthen our Executive Committee line-up. His presence will ensure consistent operational excellence and implementation of our core standards."

Montmar has more than 20 years of experience in the hospitality and tourism industry.

In the course of his career, he has gained extensive knowledge in Strategic Planning, Marketing, Operations and Financial Management which led his appointment to the top position in various properties such as Ballroom Island Resort and Spa, Berjaya Langkawi Resort, Grand Boulevard Hotel, Lakeside International Hotel, and Diplomat International Hotel in Sydney, Australia.

Montmar is the son of a diplomat who spent most of his life in the Middle East.

He obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Economics at the Australian National University and pursued further studies in Hotel Management at Canberra's College of Technical and Further Education.

Montmar has also been based in the United States and Europe. Outside of work, he indulges in car racing, badminton and kite-flying.

Motivating staff, increasing loyalty

By Lila Bautista-Abrera
Contributor

THERE'S A story about a very loyal employee who declined his 30-year productive years to a manufacturing company but his accomplishments would by without so much as a ribbon pin. After a decent run him that he had put up with the lack of affirmation from superiors (such as his boss and peers) for too long. So finally decided in hand in his resignation and to look for another job where he would be more appreciated.

Whatever it was that motivated him to stay that long, only he would know. But it's a sad commentary about the mind set of typical employers who think that if they dole out good products or services, and if customers continue to patronize them, then employees should be happy, right? Wrong!

The likelihood of every business to its employees, says Kyle Wells, a loyalty and best practices expert, in her article "Top 13 Ways to Increase Your Employee Loyalty." Research shows that emotionally connected employees are the best employees because they are engaged and productive, and they feel validated and appreciated," she says.

Engage employees

How do employers engage their employees? Wells advises measuring their employees' passion (or lack of it) about work by conducting a survey about job satisfaction, productivity, quality of power, the likelihood to change jobs and to recommend company positions or services, and their satisfaction (or dissatisfaction) with compensation and benefits.

Wells says employers should make employees feel they are making a positive contribution. "Set specific employee pain points for a paycheck, but an engaged employee perceives his job as important and feels he is making a difference by being empowered and confident to solve customer problems."

She advises employers to make their employees feel respected. "Employees don't leave their job, they leave their manager" is the mantra heard for many years in human resources circles," she says. "To feel respected, employees should feel that the company cares for them as individuals and not just employees." Employers should feel their managers have realistic expectations about what they can achieve. And managers must be fair—nothing makes employees angrier than seeing a poor performer spread total misery after he or she has bombarded one rules or has been performing."

Transparency, acceptance

She also advises managers not to be afraid to tell their employees the truth. "Communicate how your business is really doing at least quarterly or semiannually. Give your employees confidence in the future and information to understand shifts in corporate policy due to the competitive environment," she adds.

Employers, she says, should also help their employees feel accepted. "Adequate benefit programs will enable employees to feel accepted by the organization, and that they're not expendable," she explains.

Three "R's"

So how should employees be motivated and be loyal to the companies they work for? Wells cites the three "R's" of successful staff management—retain, reward and recognize your employees. "Organizations should provide their employees with opportunities for professional and individual growth and stimulating work or challenging assignments, and give them the necessary tools to successfully complete them. It will also help if employees are encouraged to set personal goals," she says.

But how can organizations reward or recognize their employees for their accomplishments and contributions when they're on a tight budget according it to a recession or an economic crisis?

Reward, recognize

The good news is: the recognition that works with people doesn't have much to do with money, says Cindy Morreire, partner of Make Your Employee Recognition That Works. On a January 2007 survey conducted by Accountemps, a staffing firm based in California, "frequent recognition of accomplishments" was the top non-monetary compensation that workers like. Following in the second spot was "telling workers what's specifically right about their work" coming in at No. 2.)

Morreire says recognition and rewards come not only in the form of flexible working hours and time off for personal and family responsibilities, "giving the opportunity to sit in on a panel discussion on their managers' behalf or to mentor or sending them to an industry conference is invaluable.

Another meaningful form of employee recognition is giving their opinions exposure to the rest of the staff, to important clients, or to staffers in their field. "This can include everything from being quoted one in the most creative software developer of the month on an in-house bulletin board to being invited to lunch with the boss and one of the company's key clients. Host employees to a 'Wall of Fame' where photos of employees who have accomplished something truly special are displayed along with the details of what they have done," Morreire suggests.

Something as simple as customizing a personal sign of appreciation or writing a personal thank-you note to an employee for a job well done can have a lasting impression. Personal thank-you's can be very powerful. Never keep them for later years—when have even taken a bar napkin featuring scribbles from the boss and have it framed," she says.

Pitfalls

Morreire warns, however, against the bad handling of employees rewards that commemorate years of service or milestones. "HR is typically responsible for sending out the plaque. It goes out three months to three years late. It then goes through the mail room to employee instead of being presented by a manager. It's a sign that no one really cares?" she laments.

She then there "stupid and insensitive" in handling employees rewards and recognition.

"Don't let the presence of a popularity contest. Make sure recognition is being given based on merit.

"Don't give the perception of playing favorites. Morreire says there is a danger of giving the perception that the same people are being recognized all the time or that only favorites are recognized. If employees think that they are being treated differently based on some factor other than work performance, this may feed that insecurity and suspicion.

3M reaches out . . .

From page B3-4

and filing materials.

Then, to get the attention of the fun food chains, 3M experts demonstrate the benefits of its consumers products such as grease film, which makes the surface of grease-free cooking such popular Filipino snacks as hamburgers and hotdogs, and wireless microphones for taking down enough orders.

It also got architects, interior designers and construction planners in touch with new products in the line of 250 film that ensures wallpaper special adhesives for building exteriors and special film to be installed on windows to reduce the amount of heat entering the building, thus reducing the cost of air-conditioning.

Industrial customers were also given the tours of those to construction or in the military. It also has a line of special adhesives that can be used in wood and solar power plants.

"What we realized is that in a lot of markets, brands such as Scotch and Post-it have really marked for us, how we have been able to leverage 3M. So we have to do what we can to strengthen the public's familiarity with the 3M brand," says Chan. "The brand is one of our company's greatest assets. We have to make sure of it."

According to Shim, the attributes that the company is known for attached to 3M is innovation, considering its presence in a myriad of industries, from home care to home and office supplies, electronics, healthcare, industrial, to health and construction.

Global companies such as DuPont and Sony, also admits, have a lock on the innovation tag.

But if 3M will have its way the company should be up there with them before long.

Adidas bullish . . .

From page B3-1

Pinto says, "We are confident and bullish about the retail industry in the Philippines that's why we are very excited to launch the newest concept which is adidas Neo."

As a new label, Adidas Neo will account for around 22 percent of the overall business in the Sports Style division this year. By next year, Adidas Neo intends to grow the share to 30 percent.

The company describes adidas Neo as its "freshest open-inspired label made accessible for style-adopting youth." The line ranges due 14 to 19-year-old bracket who live active lifestyles and are online savvy.

"They like to follow trends and find style inspiration from their friends and pop culture, Pinto explains. "Their spending power relies heavily on their parents who are still involved in purchasing decisions and shopping locations."

He points out that Adidas is the first sportswear brand to debut a dedicated Neo concept superstore, targeting the young market who are conscious of price but demand value, while offering "the strength of leading global brand."

The Philippines is the first country in Southeast Asia to introduce this new label, which, Pinto said, will eventually be introduced to neighboring countries like Vietnam and Malaysia next year.

"Teenagers tend to tend to save their allowance for three months to make their first Adidas purchase," Pinto says. "With Neo, maybe they'll just need to save for one and a half months before they get their hands on the brand."

As a retail marketing approach—amid a slew of competitors—Adidas' approach might just work.

BUSINESS Monday

Strength the World Trusts

What do the Staples Center Arena, The Venetian Macao, the World Cup Stadium in South Africa, the Golden Mile in Dubai and Metro Manila Skyway have in common?

They all used Sika products in their construction. Sika is a Swiss company specializing in construction chemicals and industrial adhesives. This year, Sika marks its 100th year.

Established by Kaspar Winkler in 1910, Sika's first major project was the Gotthard Tunnel. Its breakthrough waterproofing admixture made possible the electrification of Switzerland's underground railway system.

Through the years, Sika has developed new technologies to answer the needs of construction and industries around the world. Its product range now encompasses concrete admixtures, grouting and fixing, waterproofing, roofing, sealing and bonding, flooring, repair and protection, as well as structural strengthening.

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Sika

3M reaches out to more buyers

3M MANNING director W.S. Shin welcomes visitors to 3M's Customer Technical Center in Makati City

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FILIPINOS DO not realize it, but they encounter a product manufactured by 3M Company at least 100 times a day.

Starting at home, you smell clothes with a fresh Febreze scouring pad. Preparing breakfast? The packaging tape around the chicken leg and banana is also produced by 3M. So are the fashionable enhancement films on your smartphones, protective film on your computer monitor and the ubiquitous Post-it and Scotch tape used for school and office.

Once you get in your car, then it's likely that you are using 3M Scotchgard floor mats, your windshield is protected by a 3M tint and your car license plate has 3M sheeting film. Some newer signs and street names also have protective film produced by the $25-billion-a-year company.

Then you hit the road and you encounter 3M cars eyes and road signs along the highway. Industrial strength adhesives may have also been used on some malls and buildings you see on your way to work.

Get to the hospital and 3M is there, too. The Littmann stethoscope, Micropore medical tape and the H1N1 protection mask are just some of the products under the medical category.

So yes, 3M is all around us, and the company that has been in the country for more than 40 years has embarked on an aggressive campaign to make sure that Filipinos know it.

For 3M, the way to do it is to build more intimate relationships with its target customers, not just through traditional avenues exposure on radio, print and television, but by reaching out to them directly and showing them what 3M and the 10,000 products in its arsenal to the Philippine market.

3M in the Philippines, which was established in 1964, has done developed the 3M Experience: Innovation Tour, which is open to the public by appointment.

During the tour, students, professionals and company representatives will be able to learn about the different applications and products that 3M has through its divisions like Abrasives, Automotive Aftermarket, Commercial Care and Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S), Commercial Graphics Division, Traffic and Safety Solutions, Industrial Adhesives & Tapes, Renewable Energy, Dental (3M ESPE), Communications Market, Electrical Markets, Electronic Solutions, Electronic Markets and Materials and Food Safety and Sheltoil.

"It's about time that Filipinos get to know 3M products and technologies at work in their daily lives," says Ms. Shin, managing director of 3M in the Philippines. "As we open our doors to everyone, we will invite them to take that 3M Experience, touch the products, understand how they work and discover things they never would have thought to be a 3M application or product. It is a very interesting experience."

To promote its desired line, for example, 3M has invested in a state-of-the-art training area in its Customer Technical Center in Makati City to inform dentists about the latest innovations in dental care, such as shrink resins, tooth whitening solutions

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THE ABRASIVES Room is just one of 3M's showcase areas that the public can check out

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LIFESTYLE Arts&Bo

SOPRANO Rachelle Gerodias rehearsing with the Daegu opera orchestra.

Rachelle Gerodias debuts in Korea

By Pablo S. Tariman
Contributor

AFTER HER triumphant Lia ("Turandot") in Vienna, soprano Rachelle Gerodias made her debut as Rosina ("Barber of Seville") at the Daegu Opera House in Korea on the occasion of the 6th Daegu International Opera Festival last Oct. 16.

It was the soprano's latest vocal challenge after her Susanna ("Marriage of Figaro") in Singapore four years ago.

The soprano said that at first she was hesitant to accept the role. "I have never done 'Barber of Seville' or any Rossini opera for that matter and there was very little time to prepare. I received the invitation in late July and the production starts in September which gives me barely two months to prepare."

"The only time I really sat in front of the piano with a newly ordered (Rossini) score of the'Bird' was after Arthur (Espiritu) had left Manila," she said. "That left me only five more weeks to prepare for Rachel before I fly to Korea. Aware of these challenges, I thought what the heck: it is a great opportunity to learn Rossini and to perform it for the first time in Korea! I want to reprimand my country to this prestigious festival so I said yes."

Even the big challenge for the soprano is to get into the part of Rosina into her vocal range. "I have been singing a lot of Puccini these past two years and Rossini is a very different style. The composer's work is the peak of the Italian bel canto style. His writing is very special. He is famous for the difficult coloratura passages which require a lot of agility in the voice. If you are not trained well for coloraturas, then it is very difficult. Now I am actually very pleased that I'm doing this because I am forced to work on my coloraturas which is very healthy for a singer."

She admitted that at first it was a painful and tedious process getting her voice into the mode. But after a few weeks of regular training and immersion with Rossini, she became more confident.

Moreover, she is getting some Rossini musical tips from pianist Hajji Ismail and some pointers from tenors Leonel de la Cruz and Arthur Espiritu who have sung a lot of Rossini operas.

No doubt a big highlight of her engagements this year was her triumphant turn-up with tenor Espiritu, the first Filipino tenor to sing at La Scala di Milan.

Her initial impressions of the tenor: "Arthur is a joy to work with! He's very down to earth, generous, simple and with no quirks. He's very confident and yet he's not showboating (show-off). He's a true artist."

The Korean production of "Barber of Seville" is actually a collaboration of several countries namely Japan, Malaysia, China and Taiwan. Conducted La Gerodias: "I am really excited to perform in Korea because this is the home of a lot of opera stars like the wonderful Sumi Jo."

Soprano Rachelle Gerodias sings the role of Lucrezia in the University of Santo Tomas production of "Gianni Schicchi" at the CCP Main Theater with baritone Andrew Fenaflor in the title role in January 2013. The concert is one of the highlights of the UST Quadricentennial, the celebrations of the Pontifical University's 400th anniversary in Asia's oldest university.

Ballet Manila's all-Filipino 'Le Corsaire' dazzles

BALLET Manila's corps de ballet in "Le Corsaire"

PRINCIPAL Mylene Aggabao as Gulnare with principal Rudy Jo Dino as Lankedem

By Joseph O. Cortez
Contributor

IT IS DIFFICULT to believe that a number of the dancers who performed in Ballet Manila's recent production of "Le Corsaire" were all first-timers. This praise ballet may not have the most plausible of stories—BM artistic director Lisa Macuja-Elizalde admits that the ballet has a "ridiculous" plot—but the dancing makes up for that. Indeed, it is a showcase of virtuoso dancing, ranging from pirouettes to fouettés and everything in between, to challenge its leads.

But how many dancers do you need to mount a full production of this ballet? You need two good ballerinas and four pas, many dears will tell you. The fact that Ballet Manila staged this ballet with four alternate casts is already a testament to the talent and training of its corps of dancers.

This wasn't the first time BM staged the complete three-act ballet. It first mounted this production in 1998 with members of the Bonnefoux Ballet in a co-production. Since then, the company has performed it with an all-Filipino cast. The recent production is also an all-Filipino one, except for one Modiera, the Russian Elena Chernova, who is one of the present members of the company. Other than that, who were divided among seasoned company members. The fact that many of them are dancing their roles for the first time does not

PRINCESS Tuesday as Birbianna, Miko Quevarra as Conrad and Mirlo Santos as Ali in Ballet Manila's Le Corsaire

show dynamic this dance company is.

"Le Corsaire" has a very simple plot that you can easily ignore it and just marvel at the dancing before you. The slave trader Lankedem kidnaps Medora and Gulnara. The pirates Conrad, Ali and Birbanto rescue Medora. Which Birbanto forms an alliance with Lankedem following an argument with Conrad on how to divide the treasure they have acquired. But two-timing Medora, after they have dragged Conrad, and Birbanto to the ballet. After another rescue, Medora and Conrad and Gulnara and Ali sail off happily into the sunset.

"Le Corsaire" owes its appeal to its choreography. Since it was first presented in 1856, it has been continually revised to include more dances to highlight the talent of a specific dancer. Through the years, all these accumulated dances resulted in a ballet unlike any in the repertoire, one that is full of display pieces to challenge a dancer-centric company to showcase it. Actor-dancer Francisco as Ali, Mylene Aggabao as Gulnara, Francis Gonzales as Birbanto and Alfren Salgado as Lankedem (another first-timer).

Macuja-Elizalde has announced that she would go easy on Modern and his other signature roles because she has already lost the weight of years when she dances them. You see none of that when she danced Modern on opening night. Her slave girl is as nimble as ever, classy in her turns, precise in gestures and simply ravishing. Her team-mates competed the company to perform as impressively as she did.

Rudy de Dino owned the role of betrayed swashbuckling thief it was his first time to dance the role. His pirate was suave and likeable and his chemistry was as effortless as her partner's. (It's hope were serene and his spins were thrilling. Gee ada Francisco as Ali brought his trademark athletic performance to the role, complete with splits in mid-air. Their pas de deux in Act II was as expected, a display of poised bonus dancing. It was truly the highlight of the evening.

The other leads were just as strong. Mylene Aggabao as Gulnara was ripe for a full production of Modern (she did dance Medora in a production), while Alfren Salgado as Lankedem was thrilling in the role. Their Pas de Quatre in Act I was a true mini pas de deux, a foretaste of the grand pas de deux in the latter act. Francis Gonzales as Birbanto came in his own in the second act, Dame duo forbears, one of the many display numbers in this ballet.

Matinee

We were able to catch a matinee performance, and the attendance of talent on stage that day should make Ballet Manila proud. Elena Chernova, in her debut as Medora, delivered. There may be some hesitancy in her dancing at the start, but once she warmed up, her dancing was simply delightful. Mirlo Salgado as Conrad has darkened tremendously as a dancer, his leaps secure and his turns exciting. He fit the role to a tee and cuts a dashing figure on stage. He and Chernova were equals on stage. Antolin medrado debuted as Ali that afternoon, and though he might be too tall for the slave boy, he had the measure of the role. With years on stage, he would eventually be up to the challenge of dancing Conrad.

Anela Cortez took on the role of Gulnara in this group. Though she danced well, she needed time to warm up to the role. In the Act I Danse d'esclave, she was careful with her steps, but by the Act III Grand pas, she was moving along just fine. Her partner Harold Salgado as Lankedem proved to a strong dancer, too. His partnering skills in Jessie Fuchen were superb and he was coming to his solos. Cuccolo reprised his Birbanto in this performance.

Though Macuja-Elizalde has announced her intention to limit her appearances as Modern, she could do so confidently knowing that her company has dancers who could deliver accomplished performances worthy of production here and abroad. Their intensive training in the Vaganova method, the technique she espouses and promotes in her company, has prepared them for the many roles, difficult or not, in the productions that Ballet Manila stages every year. As BM artistic director, Macuja-Elizalde can rest on her laurels as a ballerina, and also as an educator.

For its Christmas presentation, Ballet Manila stages "The Nutcracker." Performances are at the Ayala Theatre Dec. 7-9, and 11-12.

Ballet kick-offs leave audiences wanting more

By Rina Reynio B. Pimentel
Contributor

OPENING THE ballet season this year are productions that reinvent a company's evolution, paid homage to heroes and launched promising stars. All were done in grand, razzle-dazzle manner that were well-attended—thanks in large part to the steady stair of ballet-mongers from abroad and stronger efforts in collaboration among the three major companies in the country: Ballet Manila (BM), Ballet Philippines (BP) and the Philippine Ballet Theatre (PBT).

Sentimental

The Germans have a word for what BM's "Viola Anda Al Juan" evoked repeatedly among former BM dancers who attended the ten-week production at Solaire: sehnsucht, or this act of intensely yearning something.

To celebrate its 15th anniversary, BM invested on giving the audience a peek at life in BM since its inception in 1990. Playful premieres of impressive stories alternated with audio-visual presentations of interviews and images of past and present BM performers who so called performances on a makeshift stage at various provinces, rigid classical ballet training using the Vaganova method and how the company has grown from 21 members practicing on the Manila Bento porch to a 52-strong group that is currently enjoying close to lionized status and two home theatres.

For majority of the audience, the most memorable among the new choreographers was the happier Gerardo Francisco Francisco's portraits "Mariela at Juan," a bittersweet love story of two young ballet master, both to a comical point-counter-weaving, modernly safe as mayonnaise of a house that included Michael Divinagracia as Juan, the tavern playing bestie, Francisco's tried-and-tested formula served as a fitting finale for a romance dedicated to bring ballet closer to the hearts of the masses. The dancers mimed vignettes of typical life as a boarding house in Manila using OPM hits of the '80s and '90s such as Rockstar's "Mariela," Apo Hiking Society's "Pumapag-ibig sa Iba," and Smokey Mountain's "Uncensored Nyt."

Ram Damian's "Ibu Dyot" was cleverly titled, an anagram of the names of BM principals, Lisi Macuja-Elizalde and Rudy de Dino, for whom the dance was made on. Damian played on both dancers' strengths in split-second timing and unconventional lifts using the "Blind Pas" or the Tchaikovsky pas de deux. There were room for both dancers to mesh more seamlessly with a choreography that is, while striking, remained stubbornly neo-classical.

Gianfranco Mendoza, who alternated the lead roles on her first—alongside Ramon Peralta on a Saturday afternoon, was notable in her strong performances and sales-demeanor.

Double Lake

What with the laughs of William Moreno, Philippine Ballet's ghost master, coming over as guest ballet master and coach for the production, it felt like a reunion of sorts on the opening night of BP's September gala at the CCP Main Theater in Pasay City.

Seasons BP members flocked in the 60's costumes and dated choreography while watching a company that seemed to have been transformed overnight. Gone are the powerful, Amazonian trademark of dancers who are more identified as a modern or contemporary dance group and in place are ethereal evergreen executing the choreography in the abridged version of Michel Fokine's "Les Sylphides."

Under Nicanor Jonsulan's revamping, the company daintily interpreted the romantic version of white-clad sylphs dancing with a young poet.

Dawn Nicole Lim and Jeremy Lee, principal dancers Gardee Adea and Jean Mari Gardeo generally showed off their wins, using moves during the 43rd International Ballet Competition in Jihuanghpai, where Gardeo was semi-finalist and Adea was silver medalist—the highest showing a Filipino pair has ever won. They also danced Victor Ursabia's "Sapin-sapin" with much gusto, as actor Al Germaine evoked "Bambi" a poem by former BP member Hagi Gaspar.

Cyril Pallos, whose bouncy performances of live-spirited Lhuyssac was

ABOVE, BP's Kimberly Mendoza with Ramon Peralta in Ram Damian's "Ibu Dyot"; right, Rudy de Dino as Solor and Lisa Macuja-Elizalde as Nikiya in Act 3 of "La Bayadere" for BM's "Viola Anda Al Juan"

vice "Gopak" earned catcalls from his colleagues, also presented "Dancer Circa," the winning piece of the first Choreographers Cup.

Quite noticeable among budding BP members were long limbed and soaring Rita Winder, especially in one of the most coveted couples in Carlo Tayag's "Shelling Pink," whose handles where everybody seem to their costumes and so Gardeo in Alden Lapuzan's "Buri-gumdok," lord legend about a little girl from the choreographer's Leyte hometown.

Much-awaited

PBT's ambitious "Swan Lake" was an exceptional case where technical lapses, overdue grand jetés and stretched abdotal turns. In fact, the audience did not mind any of those things. They only had eyes for Tiffany Mangulabnan as both Odette and Odile throughout the productions.

PBT's hidden gem was seldom granted lead roles simply because she is too tall for the company's in-house male talent.

Having finally found an "import" who was tall enough to partner her, it was Mangulabnan's time to shine: both as the girl who was under the spell of an evil magician and would turn into a swan by day until true love frees her prince would come and break the spell; and as the unfaithful who would attempt to keep the same prince to marry her look-alike.

As Odette she exuded the right amount of melancholy aura, with eyes downcast and periodic shaking of the head and trembling of arms about her head just as the graceful bird she was. As Odile, she transformed into an aggressive vixen, complete with flaring nostrils and "come-hither" looks.

Even with a magnetic charisma, stage presence and elastic Pasiatpakov's choppiest version of the ballet that was adjusted suitably, Mangulabnan still has a lot of technical duffs to master.

Houston Ballet soloist Tatiana Loeda as Prince Sigfried gamely compensated whenever Mangulabnan lacked in partnering, but his solos were forgettable. Perhaps a company that has been perennially plagued with budget constraints would do better to find—and groom—younger, level-based dancers suited to partner its taller females instead of losing thousands of pesos to home international talents. Unless it's someone like Cuban dancer Carlos Acosta of Royal Ballet in UK, any other male guest is never a matchmaker and ultimately sound option.

It was a pity that Mylene Aggabao, BM's prima principal, alternated as Odette/Odile for one afternoon performance only. A matinee show is not enough for Bill's area to fare to Manuja Elizalde because few witnessed the technical feats as which the guest star—obviously a more seasoned performer—executed difficult step combinations in the dual role.

Lack of taller male dancers for his "technically competent" male corps de ballet remain to the stage as Prince Sigfried in some of the performances. So valiantly tried to keep up with both Mangulabnan and Aggabao and was able to show both women off very well. Quite understandably, he struggled with BM's version of the solos. One cringed when he attempted the same signed in for landing Aggabao's.

El Schollida looked like a very elegant antagonist as the evil Von Rothbart, prancing across the stage in a flashy, feathery costume by Julie Bonnevie. The "technically competent" male corps de ballet remain to the stage as Prince Sigfried in some of the performances. So valiantly tried to keep up with both Mangulabnan and Aggabao and was able to show both women off very well. Quite understandably, he struggled with BM's version of the solos. One cringed when he attempted the same signed in for landing Aggabao's.

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BM will mount "The Nutcracker" on Dec. 7-12 and "Bullet, Band, Ballads" on Feb. 14-16.

PBT will end the season with "Cinderella" and other ballets" Nov. 16-21.

BP's 41st season continues with "Swan Pas" Dec. 7-12; "Don Quixote" Feb. 16-20.

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Tribal drums, dances and Miss Universe

By Amado Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

TO THE mesmerizing beats of tribal drums, dances and chants—plus encouraging words from Ms Venus Raj, Miss Universe fourth runner-up—the Indigenous People's Month has been joyfully launched. (It is also, one might add, the month of Mother Mary, Our Lady of La Naval.)

The event—Sayaw Lipunang ng mga Katutubong Pilipino: People's Festival 2010—was announced at a recent press conference at the National Commission for Culture and the Arts at Intramuros, Manila.

The effusive Raj, a special guest who was responsible for the big turnout at the press con, made a pitch for indigenous culture: "This wonderful activity will make people aware of our national culture, its schools and theaters, the youth will see this."

She added: "Sometimes we forget where we came from. Hands up without your own culture is beautiful. Solving parade. Amazing. Ashes... Proud ako. I am proud of my countrymen."

Wilma Labrador, the new NCCA chair, also speaking in Filipino and English, said: "We all come from a tribe. This is our wealth, and our grandchildren should not find it creepy. One duty is to transfer these traditions—like the prayers—to our children."

Injecting substance to the celebration was playwright Mahen Jacob, the new executive director of the NCCA, who noted that the indigenous peoples are often victims of land thefts. And speaking for the past two years, the NCCA "has been able to connect with an organization that has been helping the Bri (Indigenous Peoples) and their artists through low-cost loans. The scheme is that they get the raw products, with marketing secondary."

The activities of the festival include performances, exhibits, forums, live demonstrations and workshops, and a display of arts and crafts by professional specialists and artists.

Performances will be held at the National Museum and in five universities in Metro Manila cities: Quezon City, Pasay, Pasig, San Juan, Manila and Makati.

Ongoing until Oct. 30 at the NCCA Gallery is the exhibit "Sa Pitodurong Kalibasan." There will also be crowning activities until today.

A highlight of the festival was a forum "Kalibasan in Place: Cultural Creativity in a Changing Environment," (Oct. 10-11) at the National Museum, participated in by leaders of close to 100 indigenous peoples of the country.

Issues that faced the indigenous communities were discussed, and solutions, sought. There were speakers and papers from Asia-Pacific countries.

MISS Universe 2010 fourth runner-up Venus Raj (center) tours the NCCA gallery that currently houses indigenous crafts, artworks and materials. With her are Shirley Habli Cruz, committee head on Dance; Egai Tabuan Fernandez, committee head on Music/Arts; the artistic and NCCA Executive Director Wilma Labrador.

Leading classical musicians reap Aliw Awards

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

FILIPINO CLASSICAL musicians with solid world-class credentials topped the 23rd Aliw Awards on a stormy Monday night at the Manila Hotel.

Leading the distinguished awardees were pianist Gerlie Lisud, who got the Life Achievement award; tenor Arthur Espiritu, who received the Sen Wale Classical Recitalist of the Year award; and soprano Camille Lopez Molina, for Best Female Classical Performer award.

Lisud is the first Asian to receive the Leventritt Gold Medal in New York, and Espiritu is the first Filipino tenor to sing at La Scala di Milan in 2007 as Nemorino in Mozart's "Cosi fan tutte." Lopez Molina, who won a dazzling soloist of the Manila Symphony Orchestra this year, has performed with the Hongkong Academy Philharmonic Orchestra and the Rosenwaus-tum der South West Orchestra, the latter in a performance of Saymaxwell's Rhapsody in Water at the famed Wiener Musikverein, home of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.

The tenor could not receive the award as he was singing Gloria in the Donizetti opera in Switzerland, while Lisud had engagements with Nuremberg Symphony in Germany.

Previous Aliw awardees in classical music included Ingrid Sala Antonmarie, Felipe Salvosa, Rachelle Arevalao, Mary Anne Papica and Monet Arroyos, among others.

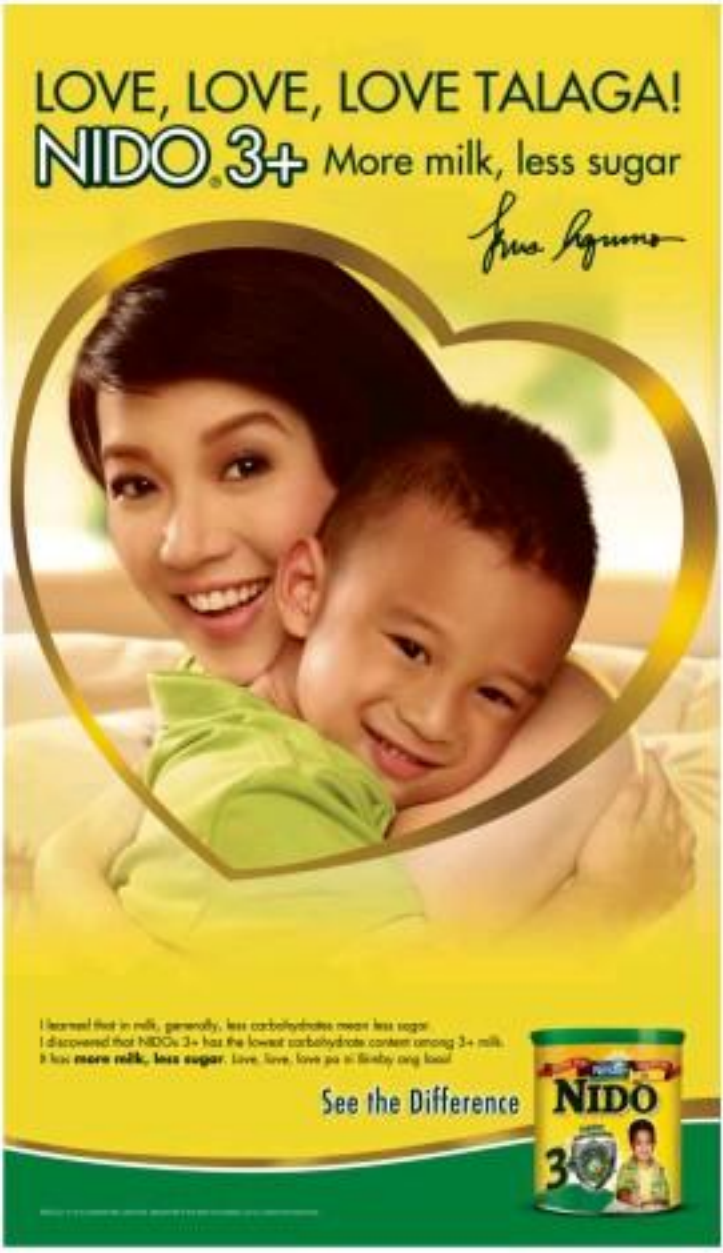
Lisud recently dazzled audiences by playing Chopin No. 1 for the opening concert of the Adrian Symphony Orchestra in Michigan.

Wrote a Michigan critic: "It would not be an exaggeration to say that the Adrian Symphony Orchestra's presentation of the first classical-music performance of its 50th season on the bar mighty high for the rest of its year. Sunday's concert featured a performance that was most definitely a high point of this or any other ASO season: a truly world-class guest artist, Gerde Lisud, in a stunning rendering of Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1. Not often do you have the distinct pleasure of hearing someone for whom the instrument seems like a natural extension of themselves, but for Lisud it appears exactly that way.

"She not only displayed a first rate technique, with the light touch and refinement demanded of this work, but she also captured perfectly what mostly had to be Chopin's intentions with this music: for its understated grace and very intimate quality to shine through for the listener."

"And just in case you thought a piano work couldn't get any better played than the Chopin was," the critic added, "the Gottschalk piece she presented as an encore was, in a word, spectacular."

ALIW Best Female Classical Performer awardee Camille Lopez Molina in a scene in Andrew Chenier in a duet with Dennis Gonzaga



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LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Book catalogue to UST exhibit of rare books and historical treasures a 'visual feast'

By Macario Ofilada
Contributor

'Lumina Pandit' the book captures faithfully the grand narrative of the historic exhibit—the civilizational dialogue between West and East that led to the founding of the Filipino nation by UST alumni and patriots

NEXT YEAR, 2011, the Royal and Pontifical University of Santo Tomas of Manila, the oldest institution of higher learning in Asia, will celebrate its 400th year of existence.

It is appropriate that this institution, which has weathered many storms (look: tropical typhoons and historical ones), which has lived through many glorious moments, the alma mater of the nation's most illustrious founders, and the center of several historical events, take on commemorations of importance.

A Dominican university, UST plans to commemorate of course from the founder of the Order of Preachers himself, St. Dominic de Guzman, like churches preaching born through the centuries from mentioned by his more than evangelization and education, St. Thomas Aquinas, patron of UST, has captured this Dominican thrust of discursivity by evangelization and education, with the immortal motto in his

BOOK D3

Mindanao, island of museums

By Antonio J. Montalvan II
Contributor

If it's the last of public institutions to leave some of age. When monastic logic to colonial undertakings, so the peoples were exterminated the idea "subanens," many of whom were exhibited as live specimens in

PANORAMA D3

Mindanao, island of museums

From page D1

World's Fairs. The museum was a conception that was more capitalistic and extractive rather than collaborative and pedagogical.

Over the last 40 years, however, collaborations with what Margaret Bruchac calls "under-represented minorities" has increasingly challenged the role of museums as sites where issues of identity, memory, place and power intersect. It is under such framework that many Mindanao museums have come of age.

Museums are legion in Mindanao. As of last count, there are 60 museums in Mindanao, and the number is still increasing. That is overwhelming, considering that it has more museums than Manila.

Museums in the war zones

Of course the first image of Mindanao in the place where before are scenes for breakfast always prompts my chronicler of the region. No one would ever think that there is a museum on Lantaka, Basilan or that there are two in Jolo, Sulu where there is a branch of the Bureau of Museums. The Mini Sta Tay Memorial Hall Library and Museum in Lantaka began as a private endowment from a local Chinese businessman way back in 1981. In Jolo, there is the National Museum branch of Sulu and the Hadji Butu of Jolo College Museum.

In the south Cotabato plains, museums are a dime a dozen. Practically each State Dame school has a museum. All images of strife in Mindanao vanish as soon as you enter these museums. These museums operate on the notion of cultural diversity. There are representations. Even the Bagobotanos, the Manobo, the Tiduray, the B'laan, the T'boli, all sharing spatial ownership when competing claims come to disrepute. Such is the style of the Gallery of the Peacemakers and the Anthropology of Streets, de Zamboanga University where one finds Tausug, Samal, Subuh and Sachuen representations in one quarters. There simply is no tilt of war, it is the sharing the island Mindanao? But more than sharing, it is also the act of promoting peaceful coexistence that one hears in its museum voice.

Three museums have come to understand the "contemporary necessity of re-explaining indigenous people, formerly distanced in time and space." Ann McMullen contends that "representations per se involve violence." Although mostly operated by minority trained but passionate and driven museum professionals, they have become viewed as the discourse of providing indigenous people with ample opportunity for what McMullen calls "building public belief in their survival."

Mary Stevens of University College in London was describing the remote livelihood of a visitor to the Musee Dauphinois in Grenoble, France. The exhibit was the "Mémoires d'immigrés" that showcased the history of Grenoble's population of North African origin. The South African visitor found the exhibit fantastic, because it was the first time they had been in a museum where there was a celebration that is, the first time they were really valued. That they were treated... not as outsiders and that they were able to see themselves as if unified in a museum.

Such "reflection in a mirror" was what I personally witnessed as I went through one of the galleries of the National Museum branch in Zamboanga City's Fort Pilar. It was late afternoon, and a group of students from Sulu people were viewing their own material representations. While I could not make out anything of their native Tausug language, I could see the child-like pride that saturated the faces as they viewed the exhibit.

Village museums

More than collaboration and cultivating a stewardship of indigenous cultures, at least two museums in Mindanao have taken a direct hand in bridging the rich diversity of local knowledge and their own views in museum conception. The Lumbiew Village museum located in Brgy. Lumbiew, Barangay Datal Tampal in Malungon, Sarangani, is an ethnological showcase of B'laan culture and heritage and is operated by the community. The branching of the museum was done at the National Museum's Museum of the Filipino People in December 2007.

The T'boli Museum preceded that of the B'laans. Located in scenic Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, it was opened in 2008 and continues to be curated by Datu Jose Bay as a showcase of traditional T'boli ethnology.

Indigenous people's engagement in museums is proof of their own agency in interpretating and self-representation, says McMullen, "a way of narrating their own stories." This is where we see the museum to facilitator—the traditional museum replaced by a museum of "living" memory.

A fine example of museum collaboration with IPs, reflect their marginal representations, is the Museum of Tausugs, (now Museum Sinurot) by Dean Mercedes de Jesus Gomez, OSB in Malabohan City, Bukidnon. The aim of the museum is simply to showcase Catholic liturgical vestments using indigenized materials. The weaving was done by indigenous weavers from the Tinggian of Abra to the Yakan of Basilan, using their native colors and symbols incorporated into Catholic designers. This weaving does ritual participation. More than the two it inspires, partly stimulated by the organic mold of the museum edifice with the monastery's Gothic and Lumen interior motif, the museum gives one a sense of indigenous ownership that "ties to their work, their representation."

Museum as 'authority of recognition'

Beyond being a visual and an aural aesthetic, some Mindanao museums have been enlisted for their intervention as competing claims for important local cultural treasures. The museum as a "recognizing authority" was markedly experienced by the Sarangani Heritage Museum in Sarangani City which uncovered the illegal sale of precious prehistoric artifacts found in the fishing village of Pantao-angan, Pluero Sarangani del Norte. The relics were already in the hands of treasure hunters. The museum foundation, led by civic leaders Ana and Lan Almeda, was able to acquire the artifacts from the treasure hunters, but not after a protracted negotiation. Today, the museum has become the prime repository of Sarangani del Norte's heritage.

A similar case happened in the Museum of Three Cultures of Capitol University in Cagayan de Oro. The museum was visited by a young farmer who brought a rude ball of specimens of Chinese Sung dynasty opalescent ceramics he had stumbled upon in his land. He wanted museum intervention. The two a deliberate matter. Local government land already declared the competing claim that the area was benign to local heritage. Besides, museum history were already posted to host the area. Immediately calling up the owner of the area of records, the museum had the National Museum's bone archaeologist confirm the site as the prehistoric grave of 52 individuals buried with Sherds to 11th Century Chinese tradeware. Interestingly enough, many of the shards exhibited what is known as "double-veil investigation" as Christ crucial deliverance, a prehistoric ritual prestige practice that has been traced so far only in archaeological sites on Boracay island, Romblon, Bohol and Surigao City.

With the latter recognizing the museum's role as a cultural preservation, the artifacts soon on exhibit at the Museum of Three Cultures is the finest material of great scholarly value in its collection, effectively altering the last known cultural chronology of northern Mindanao for 700 years.

Mindanao has two in situ archaeological museums that are highly valuable to the cultural chronology of Philippine prehistory... the Balangkas Diorite in Libertad, Butuan City, operated by the National Museum branch of the Caraga Region. The shrine is the home of the Butuan Boat, a dugout canoe that was carbon dated to be 320 AD, 1250 AD and 990 AD. The other is the Balabon Sanchedoriae museum in Isanga-Isanga, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, where a shell adze associated with human presence in Mindanao dated back to 6,000 years.

Museums address the many significant issues of local and national identity by confirming legitimacy on cultural claims that have been drowned of national significance, at times rendered conversable by competing claims.

There are but a mere fraction of the museum population of Mindanao which are a mirror of the region's inherent diversity. The museum not just as display but more has become an important focus of Mindanao culture. It is a showcase not just of antiques but is facilitator of what Mindanao wants to say to the nation and the world.

The author is Mindanao's anthropologist and museum advocate, is the incoming national chair of the National Committee on Museums of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. He is the president of the Mindanao Association of Museums.

ENTRANCE to the Balabon Archeological Museum in Bongao-Isanga, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi

ENTRANCE to the T'boli Museum in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato

LOBBY of the Museum of Three Agonistic Monastery in Malaybalay City, Bukidnon

THE VEE Shi Tai Memorial Library and Museum in Lantaka, Basilan is established as a private endowment in 1981

ROOMS under cribs of a B'laan child at Notre Dame of Tacurong College Museum in Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat

CONSTRUCTION in progress for the Bukidnon Museum built in Sitio Tong Pangyudanan in Indalo, Valencia, Bukidnon.

A B'LAAN guide and her guest inside the Lumbiew Village Museum in Malungon, Sarangani

Visual Arts

From page D4

Maldivian art exhibit

For sojourning Maldivian art arts group, will host a one-day exhibition on the Philippines. Lydia Shaw von Bogel organizes the... Malolos City, Bulacan, Mr. Ahmed Shaheen, Ambassador of the Maldives to the Philippines, Ms. Fathimath Nahula, Consul General, Ms. Aishath Shaheen, Consul

ST. THOMAS Aquinas, patron of Catholic schools

GRADE record of Jose Rizal

BAYBAYIN script

Book catalogue to UST exhibit of rare books and historical treasures a 'visual feast'

From page B1

Summa Theologiae: "Contemplari et contemplata aliis tradere," that is, to transmit the act of contemplation. In other words, study. To contemplate is to study and to transmit the lifestyle of studying and the object studied is to share, is to perpetuate, is to educate, is to evangelize!

How many are aware that the UST library is older than the university itself. The founder of UST, the Dominican Archbishop of Manila, Miguel de Benavides, bequeathed his books and his remaining earthly treasures for the foundation of a college in these islands. Books, the anchorers of knowledge, are the very foundation of the university.

They are the core of the humanity and identity of UST. Out of these books and other earthly treasures, the stewardship of Benavides's will finally made his dreams a reality on that fateful day of April 30, 1611.

Exhibit and catalogue

In this light, the university library aptly named after the founder himself, has recently published a beautiful yet invaluable book of the university's historical treasures. Its publication is a real achievement. The name holds true with the much-connected exhibit of which the book serves as a catalogue and guide, which the old captains of lore called academia de historiae. (The book is edited by Fr. Rogel Ignacio, OP, UST prefect of libraries who is also project director of the exhibit.)

Truly 400 years and still going strong, thanks to "unending grace," as the UST Hymn puts it. It is an occasion for an examination of conscience. The title in a nutshell captures what the university's conscience aspires to be: "Lumina Pandit" or "Spreader of the Light."

One would agree well. UST Rector Magnificus Fr. Rolando V. de la Rosa, OP, that both the exhibit and the catalogue are a "visual feast." Indeed, this bacchanalian event for the senses is marvelous from a strictly aesthetic and artistic viewpoint. But this merit is only secondary to the main purpose of both exhibit and catalogue: the narrative of history. And this narrative would attain its purpose if it makes each member of the Thomasian community and the Philippine nation at large, make an examination of conscience.

Why the nation at large? Because the University of Santo Tomas, together with its historical treasures, does not only belong to the men and women who have graced its classrooms, to the old campus in Intramuros or to the present-day Sulucan or Sampaloc campus. UST rightfully belongs to the Filipino nation. It is the "gift of one Mother Spain," to the unforgetting hymn proclaims. In effect, the university is only the historical custodian of these treasures. Its real proprietors are the Filipinos themselves.

With the exhibit and catalogue, the centuries-old custodian makes it possible for us, the proprietors, to continue examining ourselves as a nation which consciously struggles to uplift itself, through culture, through acquired learning, taking into account the challenges of the future.

The exhibit, together with its accompanying catalogue, is a potent narrative about an adventure in time and space, beginning with some concrete historical events from the West crossing the seas to find their repository here in the Far East, where the sun rises; from the arrival of the first Dominican missionaries to these shores, bringing with them books, books, books—a tradition that, in this light we can clearly infer the purpose of the exhibit and catalogue: an examination of conscience for all culture-loving Filipinos today!

BREVISSIMA Relacion, the commercial treaty by Fray Bartolome de los Casas

Dialogue and cross-fertilization

It would be more appropriate to state that the cultural artifacts imported by the Dominicans such as books, textbindings, traditions and the like triggered a dialogue, a fruitful cross-fertilization and breeding, a new and unique cultural experience which has shaped what we now know as Philippine culture. However, their imported cultural artifacts have remained and are stored within the walls of the UST library and museum.

Their concentration speaks volumes of their influences, of their dialogue with the local cultures and of their increasing liveability as points of reference even for today and for the future.

With this exhibit and catalogue, UST invites the Filipino people, in the light of the historical role of education in the development of the nation, to an examination of conscience. It does so with a potent narrative, which is an aesthetic feast, an artistic collage of its historical treasures.

Beginning with the Hernando de los Rios collection of books from the 16th century, the university sought of incunabulum, the complete repertoire of university seals, papal decrees, papal bulls—all from Europe—the narrative unfolds with the importation of cultural artifacts from the Spanish Peninsula to the Philippines, to the cross-fertilization of these cultures, to the birth of a unique Philippine culture, to the present.

The truth eloquently preached by these treasures, accompanied by contemporary ones in the catalogue, is that of dialogue and cross-fertilization. The West and the East have met. For many years these treasures were the sole cultural artifacts of the West present in this hemisphere to create an academic tradition adaptable to the exigencies of these coordinates.

In the 19th century, in the critical crucible which eventually brought about the Philippine revolution and the end of Spanish colonization in these parts, many downplayed the scientific or paucity of these treasures compared to the storehouses or universities in Europe.

Nevertheless, this university, despite colonial claims, has had the ability to conserve the heritage of the West—of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle to Augustine and Aquinas and the great masters of modernity such as Copernicus—was the alma mater of philosophers and theologians whom the West now acclaims as prophets: names such as Cardinal Zefirino Gonzales, OP, Norberto del Prado, OP, and Ramon Martinez Vigil, OP.

More important, the seeds of the nascent Filipino nation were sown within its enclave. The University of Santo Tomas is the alma mater of the fathers of the Filipino nation: Burgos, Rizal, Mabini, Quezon, Osmeña. The fact that this nation was born within the nurturing bosom of this alma mater clearly demonstrates that the West and the Orient succeeded in their dialogue and cross-fertilization, leading about that which a distinctly Filipino.

The book "Lumina Pandit" is available at the UST Miguel de Benavides Library (tel. 7307280/81 and Intramuros Bookstore (5255058).

"Lumina Pandit: An Exhibit of Historical Treasures" is running at the UST Miguel de Benavides Central Library Building until January 2011. The exhibit is free for UST students. For non-UST students, for a PHP, for a group of 10 non-UST students, P25 each, and for students from the Dominican Schools of Ashoka, P25. Call 7307280 and 4063611 loc. 8234.

BOOK collection of Archbishop Miguel Benavides

APOLINARIO MABINI's UST alumni certificate

FR. BARTOLOME de las Casas, whose disciples included Domingo Salazar, first bishop of Manila, and Miguel Benavides, founder of UST

Sculptors Castrillo, Orlina and Datuin join forces in one show

ED CASTRILLO, Jo Datuin, Johnny Hobilla, Maria John de Vera, Ramon Orlina, Marlon Diocton, Lito Fojas, Lilio Mojicos, Lyonn Jocosos, Nonito N., Flora Urquico, Cyanka B. Luna , Dando Santiago, Gil Dizon Santos, Tony Zamora, Mary Ann Nantunica Bolanadi, Guillermo L. Mosabito

THE UST Artist Alumni Association (USTAAA) is holding "Artmuang Tomasino Akin" a series of exhibits in connection with the 400th anniversary next year of the University of Santo Tomas. Asia's oldest university. The series also pays tribute to the old UST College of Architecture and Fine Arts, the cradle of modern art in the Philippines.

The latest exhibit of "Artmuang Tomasino Akin" is "Tres: Ramon Orlina Eduardo Castrillo and Joe Datuin." It features the three great sculptors, all alumni of UST.

"Tres" formally opens on Oct. 25, 5 p.m., and will run until the Oct. 31 at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City.

The exhibit is sponsored by the UST College of Architecture, UST College of Fine Arts and Design and UST Research Center for Culture, Education and Social Issues. Mary Ann Nantunica Bolanadi is curator and Guillermo Mendoza, Jr., da Magdalaya, Rhudo John de Vera and Leonnie Valencia El are designers.

CLOCKWISE from top, left: "Fantine Errante"; "Las Pilas," by Joe Datuin; "Tribute to Botong"

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Liongoren holds art auction, raffle for cancer sufferer

LIONGOREN GALLERY will hold the art auction and raffle "Go, Sis, Fight!"

Proceeds of the event will go to Yasmin "Sis" Almonte, a visual artist who serves on the faculty of College of Fine Arts, University of the Philippines Diliman, who is fighting an extremely rare cancer (stage 3 sarcoma) that originated from her jaw bone.

Buy tickets at ₱5,000 each and be entitled to bid at a silent auction and/or win a work at a raffle draw on Oct. 30, 2 p.m., at Liongoren Gallery C111 New York St. cor. Stanford St., Cubao, QC; tel. 9124319, 0915-2397557 or 9124310.

At least 80 artworks, including Almonte's, will be available for bidding Oct. 23-30, when these go on show at Liongoren Gallery (also available online at http://gogosfight.wordpress.com/w/bids-2/).

Bidding starts at ₱18,000 for individual or a combination of works by Amelie Abano, Ismael Agustin, Anna Leah Alcuba, Gio Alfiler, Willy Alfonso, Ma. Regina Arias, Alfredo Aquilizan, Isabel Aquilizan, Bel Arreglado, Baljek Barrozo, Pablo Bautista, Brandy Beaty, Betsi Beltejar, John Bermoy, Benjie Cabangcay, Angel Cacico, Elmer Bertogan, Alfred Capiral, Leo Catacutan, Jaudy Carvajal, Alice Villalba Cleto, Rudy Custodio, Hanny Coquilla, Marina Cruz, Cleo Cruz, Melvin Culalic, Elmy Dandan, Lucilo de Chavez, Camille Dela Rosa, Budrosco Jose Dacay, Jig de Pio, Fil Dela Cruz, Aaripan Delmoves, Mell Delarmin, Rock Drilon, Noell El Henri, Ava Evangelista, Rich Felicitas, Egot Fernandez, Karen Flores, Rowena Bascod Gabaci, Marge Garcia, Alex Garibay, Macoy Garibay, Eric Guiseni, Renato Gutierrez, Irma Lacerna, Elizabeth Labrga, Mykaw Living, Fred Liongoren, Julie Lloch, Jo Madarang, Jojo Lorenzo, Joyce Wallart, Neil Manalo, Rancil Joel Boy Manalo, Anthony Manalo, Jonathan Olaza, Sam Penano, Alex Peralejo, Tessie Oreyeldo, Harry Pueblo, Abel Quisani, Alena Quizon, Jerry Ranquyo, Edna Rasalio, Jay Rodriguez, Egbal Reana, Bocajo Ruiz, John Ramon, Jhun Sam Sentot, Jedi Solsona, Joey Tanseco, Rabah Tilson, Redel Tejuoja, Liz Serafin, Claretyan Ty, Nikki Valenzuela, Anco Ferrer, Liz Vidosan, Nestor Vicinan and Ney Nuno. Those who wish to contribute any amount, in lieu or in addition to buying a ticket, may deposit to Almonte's son's account: Christian Virgil John Montesora (BPI 3265-9767-91; BIC: BPI-PHMM; Chinabank 203-291-5118; Metrobank 155-3-155-22042-3).

BY DADO Guerrero-Hilason: "Grasshopper and Friend," by Mika Lojo; "Lotus," by Kim Nygaard

Carl Jung artists at LRI

The Carl Jung Circle Center presents 13 artists bound by community on Oct. 29, 6 p.m., in The Pavilion (LRI Design Plaza, 219 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air, Makati; tel. 09174515592/09174515592; e-mail:jungcircle@yahoo.com). The artists are Alan Tu, Anna Nolasco, Ma. Astrud Cinco-Dyogi, Elsie Castillo-Villaroel, Bathala Gonzales, Marlon Rubino, Elson Fonacier, Denise Ashton, Sherry Minana, Mia Fernandez, Nilla Lopa, Kim Nygaard and Lon Fernandez. Their works are manifestations of symbolisms from Jungian analyst Thomas Moore. "Through a magical, spiritual eye of images, the arts nourish the soul, creating a mildly entertaining mirror, an environment that is not only personal, but spiritually nutritious." The exhibit runs till Oct. 28.

VISUAL ARTS

Acuding, Cordero at Manila Contemporary

Praising Reading and Louie Cordero team up in "Birdie," at Manila Contemporary (MMContemporary, 2314 Pasong Tamo Extension, Barangay Bel-Air/Forbes, Makati City; tel. 8447308; e-mail: a.perez@manilacontemporary.com). Cordero injects his signature style, a visceral mix of abstraction, sarcasm and colorful pulp noir in into this piece—a multilayered fiberglass lamp molded from carved wood. Acuding draws inspiration from the film "Holy Mountain" by cult Chilean director Alejandro Jodorowsky to produce a large 16-piece collage-on-wood-cutting showcase covered in distressed leather.

"LOOKING Into the Mirror Not Seeing an Apostle"

Hilario at Drawing Room

Contemporary wood sculptor Rod Jaramillo Hilario presents a series of collector-based works in the exhibit "If an Apostle Looks in a Mirror But Can't See Him, Is He Still an Apostle?" at The Drawing Room (107 Maningning Cruz Ave., Maningning Bldg., Makati City; call 8931877, 8930990; e-mail:drawingroom@pldtdsl.net), which runs until Nov. 7. It is Hilario's 12th solo exhibit. The show is part of the artist's ongoing project of reconceptualizing and reproducing the religious icon and beyond a ritual object, and as an artifact that can interface with contemporary issues and ideas. For this show, he reconfigures the silhouette or homework type of female form to function as playful "muses."

Public art at Ayala

A public art installation titled "DadAbanta: Recycling Garbage, Restoring Heritage" is on view at Ayala Museum Plaza Dimasalang Park, Makati. Tel. 6388321 to 121, 7577117 to local 29; www.ayalamuseum.org/. The installation comprising hundreds of flowers made from recycled garbage and handbeaten by a group of women in Mandaluyong, Cavite, aims to highlight problems of pollution in Manila's rivers and waterways. The recycled "flowers" were gathered after the relief plants which were once plentiful in Manila's waterways and for which the city was named after ("Maynila"). "DadAbanta" is a creative collaboration between two major art and design colleges: University of New South Wales in Australia and School of Design and the Arts-De La Salle-College of St. Benilde. The project is supported by Ayala Museum and De La Salle University-Dasmariñas. It runs until Nov. 21.

"HAPPY Clown"

Gueldo at Sining sa Silong

"Pangkat Payaso in Pasil," an original and colorful suite exhibit of 24 clowns in acrylic by Paul Gueldo, opens Oct. 31 at Sining sa Silong Art Gallery Hidden Garden and Cocktails mark 7 p.m. Sining sa Silong Art Gallery (Unit 106-I Multiplaza dela Joya, Ortigas, Pasig.

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3 solo shows at Galerie Anna

Go view Ed Del Te at Galerie Anna (tel. 4176966, 4705511, 0917-5138222; e-mail: ed.galleryanna@yahoo.com); www.galerieanna.com) (now solo exhibits: "Makita Ko, Makita Ko," by Joey Ilag (Manila Hotel); "Sensualidades Dimensiones," by Oscar de los Santos (Ateneo Rotunda); and "Fragments sa Lawod," by Rizon Alvarado (East Pavilion).

CLOCKWISE from top left: "Superheroes Intoxicados" 24, by Oscar delos Santos; "Mariya," by Joel Ilag; "Gluten," by Rizon Alvarado

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Miguel Hernandez's poetry featured in marathon reading

Wanted: 400 readers of poetry! Register now

INSTITUTO CERVANTES de Manila will hold "Pues la Libertad: Can Poetry Change the World?"—a "chain" reading of the poetry of the great Spanish modernist poet and revolutionary Miguel Hernandez on Oct. 28, starting 11 a.m.

Tragic poet and Spanish playwright Miguel Hernandez would have turned 100 years old this Oct. 30. In honor of Hernandez's centennial, Instituto Cervantes de Manila is organizing the country's first nonstop public poetry reading of Hernandez's works at Instituto Cervantes' Miguel Hernandez Library.

Pues la Libertad: Can Poetry Change the World? will feature 217 poems by Hernandez with a total of 3,072 verses in an eight-hour uninterrupted reading. Each one of the 400 assisted readers will recite a poem by Miguel Hernandez. The event seeks to get 400 readers—217 readers in Spanish, 137 readers in English, 36 readers in Filipino, 10 Italians, Brokens and other Philippine dialects.

MIGUEL Hernandez (1910-1942)

"We are aware that the institution's success with such ambitious aim can only be achieved with the collaboration of institutions, Spanish-speaking individuals, Hispanicists, poets, booklovers, literary enthusiasts and Spanish-language-students," says Instituto Cervantes director José Rodrigues. "Esta data solidaria no sólo fue propia sino de las más influenciales Spanish poets, but also for the Spanish language and the shared heritage of Spain and the Philippines that is deeply rooted in the historically, multi-memorable past."

Considered one of the most authentic voices of Spanish literature in the 20th century, Hernandez's literary beginnings were marked by the provincial religiosity predominant in his hometown and an autodidactic literary formation based on the classics of the Spanish Golden Age. His poetry book "El rayo que no cesa" (1936) made him known in the literary circles of Madrid, where he considered residence in order to try his fortune as a poet. The Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) did not interrupt his poetic evolution, and during these years, he published "Viento del pueblo" (1937) and "El hombre acecha" (1939). When the war ended, Miguel was demoted and died in prison in 1942.

Interested participants may join this public reading activity by calling Instituto Cervantes at 526-1482 ext. 115, e-mail biblioteca@cervantes.es.

Readers will be given a certificate of participation, free T-shirt and a copy of Miguel Hernandez's anthology of poems. Participants will also get to enjoy free chocolate con churros and free Portuguese beer, courtesy of Super Bock Philippines.

There will also be free cooking of paella in the afternoon.

Pues la Libertad is organized by Instituto Cervantes de Manila with the Spanish Embassy in the Philippines, Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development, Ministerio de Cultura of Spain, Academia Filipina de la Lengua Española, New World Hotel and Super Bock Philippines.

Entrance is free. For more information, call 526-1482 or visit http://manila.cervantes.es (Instituto Cervantes de Manila is at 893 TM Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila.

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BABY BLUES — BY JERRI SCOTT

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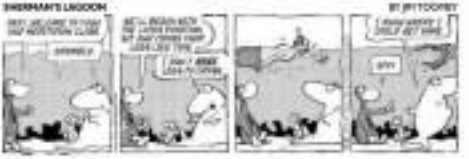
BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

BIKO MACHINE — BY RYAN ARDEN

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

THE BOMB TODAY You're close to both evil and love with your work. You like to be organized so that you can express yourself easily. Adjustable to pressure but not creative deep. You work happily apart for your efforts. You are hardworking and reliable, which makes you a trustworthy friend. Your focus on information and communication can cost Upper Libra a date in 2017.

Birthdays on Sab Perry, singer Ria Ian Pickle, singer Pablo Picasso, artist

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Romance, gifts and goodies from others are good signs of the things that can benefit you for work and interaction with your world. You like to be organized so that you can express yourself easily. Adjustable to pressure but not creative deep. You work happily apart for your efforts. You are hardworking and reliable, which makes you a trustworthy friend. Your focus on information and communication can cost Upper Libra a date in 2017.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Partnerships and close friendships are likely and beneficial today. Libra the romance is on. Casual meetings can become important.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're a take-the-lead kind of work. Confusion and co-workers are cooperative. In turn, a social outing or romance could begin. Check it out.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You're a catalyst. Relations that you have and the life explorer. Someone you will be sharing time and goods or letters. Long-term, serious and satisfactory relations. Replacement with this service.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Don't let your demanding ideal be where you live. You need to make things look more attractive. You have two weeks and a good time to work with others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You can make money from a unusually embarrassing, yet charming, offer to work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You're unusually focused on money right now. You combine your passions and work with someone as well to earn to spend it. However, you'll have to be careful because of [illegible].

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Running routine does not have to be boring. Add a little spice to your life. Meeting friends and there. Help a downtrodden? It's all about you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Social time efforts are on the agenda for some of you. Whatever the topic, make all your arrangements ahead of time. Be sure to [illegible] your private life. You're looking for your better days in your future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Relations with others, especially in your work, are excellent today! Enjoy networking. Explore ways to improve your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You make a fabulous impression on parents, teachers, bosses, VIPs and even the police today. If you need to do anything special, [illegible] you write that's you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) You will make any chance to travel. You need a change of scenery. Your next adventure and interesting acquaintance. Travel or you will fall in love with someone from another culture or a different location.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	7	2	8	6	4	9	1	5
9	4	1	5	3	7	6	2	8
5	6	8	9	1	2	4	3	7
1	3	4	6	7	5	2	8	9
2	9	5	3	8	1	7	4	6
8	2	6	4	9	3	5	7	1
4	8	9	7	5	6	1	3	2
6	5	3	1	2	8	4	9	7
7	1	3	2	4	9	8	6	5

Concepts Sudoku By Dave Green

7			1		5			4
	4	1				6	5	
	6		4		8		7	
1		4				2		3
				1				
8		2				7		5
	8		3		1		2	
	5	3				4	9	
9			2		4			6

Difficulty level: ★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Baking liberty
6. Like
10. Hobby sport-sport card
14. Tall
15. Bucks, Wood-breaker trade
16. Bucks
17. Bucks, Wood-breaker trade
18. Bucks
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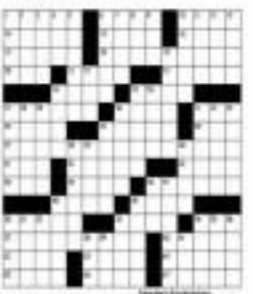

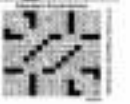

'Smoky Mountain' is unidentified setting of British author's novel

ANDY Mulligan answers questions from a panel. At right, young boys listen to an author and Mulligan reads her copy of the book.

Text and photos by Dennis R. Murillo
Contributor

THE THREE young boys in Andy Mulligan's young adult novel "Trash" (published by David Fickling Books of the UK) don't need to be introduced as Filipinos. In fact, despite the repeated mentions of Smoky Mountain in the narrative, Mulligan refuses to specify only once that the story is set in the Philippines, saying it could be anywhere in the world as poverty exists everywhere.

Mulligan, however, is quick to add that "Trash" is not so much a commentary on poverty as it is more of a fast-paced page-turner filled with mystery that begins when the protagonist Gilmalyn, Gardo and Rat find a bag with a wallet, map of the city and a key.

The police arrive looking for the bag, with an offer to reward anyone who returns it with a large amount of cash. The kids, however, are not easily enticed by it and even become wary that the police may just run off with the bag.

When Rat recognizes the type of key that was in the bag, the kids' curiosity gets the better of them and they soon find themselves trying to solve a mystery that shows just how far apart the rich and the poor are, effectively giving new meaning to the book's title.

"Trash' is not a work of great literature," said Mulligan, who teaches English and Drama at the British School Manila. "I didn't write it with a particular audience in mind. I wrote it for myself hoping the readers would enjoy it as a thriller. I love fast-moving novels that keep you gripped and as a teacher, I know what it's like to teach boring books."

"Trash" is now available in all National Book Store branches at 20 percent off for only P359.20 (number price is P449), Fictionwise Bookstore (both on Facebook and Twitter for exclusive offers and contests).

Mulligan was brought up in Great Britain and worked as a theater director for a decade. He decided to become a teacher while traveling to Asia and has taught in Bangkok and Phnom Penh in Cambodia before moving to Great Britain, India, Brazil and the Philippines.

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Shang Cineplex hosts 2010 Korean Horror Movie Festival

"HWAYEL and Gossip"

FROM top: "Episode" and "Paradise Mansion"

SHOWCBIZ.LA EDGE Plaza in Mandaluyong hosts the Korean Film Festival Dec. 27-31 and Nov. 2-3 at Shang Cineplex Cinema 4.

The event is a partnership between the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, Korea Philippine Cultural Foundation Inc. and Shangri-La Plaza. It showcases Korean cinema with an exciting lineup of widely acclaimed horror and thriller films.

In "Episode," Park Jeong-nam travels back in time to 1942, during the Japanese occupation of Korea, when he was still a young and immature intern at Severity hospital. Within those four days of his unwinding, strange events begin to happen.

It was his curiosity and, with no recollection of her past, young, pho Ko Sook is the lie herself in "The Ghost." And while she tries hard to untangle the knot of mysteries that continues to elude her, she is also confronted by nightmares, the mysterious death of her friends and a ghost that only she can see.

"Hi" is the story of up-and-coming anchor Min-woo who finds himself plagued by nightmares and hallucinations while getting ready for his anticipated full-time news). The unexplainable scandalous begins to affect both his personal and professional life, and soon he is unable to differentiate reality from fantasy.

Dance determined to smell, idyllic Paradise Mansion and when a series of deaths is discovered. In "Paradise Murdered," a special investigation unit is sent to the island to get to the bottom of the mystery. Besides loud (is a mute, a gun, a knife armed with blood and the disappearance (or murder?) of 17 of the island's inhabitants.

Rain-soaked girls lost in a country road and meets a girl who leads him to her house to the middle of the forest. Soon, Jun-seo is trapped and learns that all the adults who stayed in the house have met a mysterious and cruel end. In this unsettling of "Stained and Dotted," Rain-soo also discovers a book that reflects his last end of some other than him self.

A grudge-filled ghost, purity and chaos possessed by it, and a curse that affects to many lives are the key elements that transforms a sad yet beautiful fairy tale into a ghastly and gruelling story. And when it's beloved title "The Red Shoes" is reborn into a frightening and terrifying Korean horror flick that delves into the hidden good that lies in people's minds.

A series of murders occur with only one clue linking them—the homepage of the girl Mi-jung, which remained open on all the victims' computers during the time of their deaths. In "Saint," detectives Seung-and Hyeon-jong team up to uncover what lies behind the Mirang case after the apparent 10 years ago and her connection to the serial murder case.

Admission to the Korean Horror Movie Festival is free. For inquiries, contact 635-7951 loc. 131 or log on to www.shangrila-plaza.com.

"THE RED Shoes"

Art book chronicles first 50 years of AAP

THE ARTISTS' Association of the Philippines Foundation Inc. will launch the coffee-table book "Art works: First Fifty Years (1948-1998)" Oct. 26, 6 p.m., in Ayala Museum.

The book tells a detailed narrative of the significant role the Art Association of the Philippines (AAP) played in the development of Philippine art and showcases the entries of the annual AAP Art Competition in those years.

Envisioned by sculptor and former AAP president Ramon Orlina and edited by art historian Patrina H. Capistrano-Baker, "Artworks" is the ultimate reference material for the AAP's achievements and activities in its first 50 years.

Essays by Jesus T. Peralta, Emmanuel Torres, Bud Datu-Bense, Alice Guillermo and Gil Reyes introduce each chapter and describe the character and challenges of each decade.

Exquisite photographs of the artworks were taken by Philip Earnshaw and Richard "Dick" Goldenrico, who is regarded as the Dean of Philippine Photographers.

"Artworks: First Fifty Years (1948-1998)" is an exclusively available at Ayala Museum and Filipiniana Heritage Library until Nov. 20, after which it will be available at Power Books and selected National Book Store branches.

Ayala Museum is at Makati Avenue corner De La Rosa St., Greenbelt Park, Makati City. For inquiries on the book, call 757-7117 (21 lines) ext. 32, e-mail museumshop@ayalamuseum.org.

Campus productions tackle cruel nature of life, memory, death

By Walter Ang
Contributor

IN OUR world of nursery rhyme-loud through various mediums, desensitization is real life is a constant threat. If not result. Last month, the University of the Philippines' College of Arts and Letters put up three productions whose different materials and staging methods provided meditations on this implication while commemorating International Day of the Disappeared.

The college's Department of Filipino at Panitikan ng Pilipinas staged a retrofit of Paloma Hall of Saint Anselm Basil Aguilar's works: "Si Simoun, Kabanata XI" was directed by Chris Millado, and its Dept. of English and Comparative Literature staged Argentine playwright Griselda Gambaro's "Information for Foreigners," directed by Anton Juan. Its Dept. of Speech Communication and Theater Arts, through Shintang 102 staged Pen Jiménez' "Shoot Him," directed by Mel Escleo.

Ephemeral

Aguilar's works take us into the immortal and ephemeral. Its intimate Tanghalang Huseng Batute Shajen, "Si Simoun" (roughly, magpiraso) is a monologue featuring a former military torturer reconverging the various methods he has applied in the past.

He talks of becoming used to the sights and sounds of the fallout of torture. He justifies that he'd only been following orders. A solitary length of bright-orange plastic pipe rolled on the ground, a curtain implements arousing waves of creepy atmosphere.

Jonathan Tadioan deftly brought the torturer to life, though the monologue was staged in an unwinding one-note of pathetic posture, making it seem as if he were narrating this, we, too, become used to the sights and sounds on stage, no matter the horror being revealed.

"Walang Mukha" (roughly, unmasking) features a couple pleading about their daughter who has disappeared for years hence. Stories of Filipino disappearances (victims of forced disappearance) were written in chalk across the stage floor, setting a ghastly, poignant and poetic mnemonic: these names of real people who have disappeared that can all be easily erased with the swipe of a hand.

Millado employed a light touch with this piece, allowing Rose Guerrero (Inday), Sherry Lara (Shimmy) and Julia Estrella Lopez (alternating with Kat Castillo), playing the daughter Lory, to highlight Aguilar's raw with impactful subtlety.

The twinbill highlighted the borders of memory, the oppression of forging and the struggle of letting go. The stark staging provided the immediacy and space to contemplate these themes.

Overload

If Aguilar's work showed the inner workings of the mind and heart, Juan and assistant director Jeanmarie Tee Valiente's "Information for Foreigners" was all guts and gore.

Through a barchanata of exaggerated props, maneuvers (Christ Pamoda), lighting (Melchor Sunas) and sound (Archie Asuquin) under Glen David's technical direction, the show overwhelmed by using three entire floors of the College of Arts and Letters building and bombarding audiences with scenes of torture and other acts of inhuman insanity in different classrooms and hallways.

To create the sense of loss of control, audience members were given groups led by tour guides through the different locations and were whisked away or herding points to scenes, some of which required audience participation. Kudos to the cast for powering through repeated encounters for every group that arrives in succession and to the tour guides who had to navigate Juan's labyrinthine production while controlling large groups of people.

At one point, the novelty of going from room to room wearing tall, thin hats and humming the unyielding cacophony, the getting up and down the stairs in herds had gotten to me and I thought, "How different is this from riding the MRT during rush hour and seeing, hearing and smelling Manila's brand of poverty, ridden commuters when I exit the station? What am I seeing here that I haven't already seen on TV or on the Internet? This is supposed to be scary?"

Its another instance of the numbing effect, which is very telling of the desensitizing power of media and everyday life, despite the theatrically costly and presentation. Reality is more harrowing when the production features the story of disappeared Jonas Burgos. The enforced manner of experiencing this production leaves no time for thinking but is unfortunately thought-provoking through and through.

Manipulative

At the other end of the spectrum, "Blank Video" is a fluffy comedy about TV producer Matt Bersamin-Lobo and how his orchestrations has risen disappears when after his recurring writers face a sex scandal that was, in turn, orchestrated by a rival. Individuals involve TV personalities as products of formulation and exploitation.

Author Jimmy Lobo-Laurena with script Lorenzo) made Blank easy to hate: a self-absorbed, selfish, deceitful man-child. Melvin Dizon (also starring with Ana Abad Santos) gives moments of camaraderie to Ben Campos, the high-strung producer attempting to be Matt's voice of reason. Stella Cancer (alternating with Frances Makil-Ignacio) is a hilarious scene anchor forced to compromise standards for ratings gimmicks while John Lapus (alternating with Jonas Joseph) is a hilarious TV show host with no standards at all.

Comic shows as the carnival that the broadcast industry is and Quintos makes us laugh at its ridiculousness. That this is a light comedy doesn't mean it doesn't have anything serious to say.

Quintos uses the broadcast industry as a metaphor to show us how power can be spectacularly abused on such a scene and to such a degree that we don't even notice it anymore or accept it as par (again, the notion of numbing).

Debuting GP will surge "Isang Pamagitan na Pili," written and directed by Floy Quintos, Nov. 24-Dec. 12. This is the first production for its 10th season "Return Engagement Plays that deserve a second look," a series of runnings of 2010's most popular works. Call 981-8500 local 2440; 525-1345; 4337868 or 0917-5286210.

Philippine artists, galleries join Malaysia art fair

"LADIES of the Floors," by Lydia Velasco

"TRANSFORMERS," by Joaquin Penalosa

IZZRA VILLASCO, Dominic Rubio, and Marcel Antonio lead the group of Philippine artists being presented in this years' Art Expo Malaysia.

Organized by Tourism Malaysia with the Balai Seni Lukis Negara, Malaysia's National Art Gallery, and the Ministry of Information, Communication and Culture, the annual art event is now on its third year. It features artworks from all over the world — Asia, Eastern and Western Europe, the United States, and Latin America.

To be held on the Hall B of Matrade Exhibition and Convention Center in Kuala Lumpur, it has over 40 participating galleries from all over the world.

From Singapore alone, 16 leading art galleries have decided to participate in this all-important art fair. Other galleries come from China, Japan, Pakistan, Argentina, Korea, Hungary, Indonesia, Germany, Spain, Hong Kong, Ecuador, Cuba, Myanmar, and Taiwan.

Two Filipino galleries represent 11 Filipino artists: Lydia Velasco, Migs Villanueva, Dominic Rubio, Jaspher Penalosa, Joezan Dellosa, and Jeff Cabling (from Galerie Joaquin), and Marcel Antonio, Joselito Antolyan, Fernando Sotelo, Claudyn Uy, Leno Mateo, Bobby Nuestro and Ivan Acuna (Galleria Quatrosentos).

Malaysian Art Expo opens with a by-invitation only event exclusive for top collectors. Opening the exhibition is Rajah Sheda Perlis, DYTM Tengku Syed Faizuddin Putra ibni Tengku Syed Hamid ibni Jamalullail, and Rajah Puan Sheda Perlis, DYTM Tengku Laziah Shahreen Munbah Khalil.

The four Velasco works to be featured are titled "Midnight Lily", "Ladies at the Power", "Spring Morning", and "Paradise". This is an interesting prelude as the titular Lydia Velasco shows for New York. Titled "Hues of Life," the show opens on Nov. 4, 2010 at Galerie Raphael in Seven Sins, Global City Taguig.

'Torment' now available

THE MUCH-AWAITED sequel to Lauren Kate's Fallen is now available in National Book Store.

"Torment" follows the life of Luce and Daniel in a new school filled with Nephilims, the offsprings of fallen angels and humans. Secrets are revealed and Luce discovers startling revelations about her past that forces her to question Daniel and their relationship.

Fill out the coupon inserted in copies of "Torment" and drop at the designated drop boxes in NBS in get exclusive invites to "Fallen: The Event" in November.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bonnie G. Velarde

Zap unwanted hair on BIKINI LINES with LaserLight!

Meet the new censors board chief

Grace Poe-Llamanzares, a self-confessed movie buff and show biz baby, bats for self-regulation

GRACE Poe-Llamanzares, a self-confessed movie buff and show biz baby, bats for self-regulation

By Rayvel San Diego Jr.

GRACE Poe-Llamanzares would willingly clown-play her show-biz pedigree (as daughter of action king Fernando Poe Jr. and movie queen Susan Roces). But she'd be the first to admit that she's a film buff and "product" of the industry.

She boss-like show-biz baby is the new chief of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB).

Last week, she finally took her oath with President Aquino, but she huddled down to work mode earlier—as soon as she was recommended by movie groups as first reported by Inquirer Entertainment in August.

"From the time I was nominated, my mom told me to review the post's legal requirements. I also studied the implementing Rules and Regulations and consulted friends familiar with the agency like 'Bro Mike' Enrile [MTRCB chair Consuelo Ignacio Reyes] and Rhoda Trinidad."

She said her mom is "happy" for her, but advised her to be "vaccinated" as well.

Never in her dreams

She is certain that her late dad would've been just as delighted if he were alive to witness her oath-taking. "My dad was always proud of my achievements. He'd be glad that I was given a chance to contribute to the industry he loved dearly."

When she was a kid, her dad introduced her to Hollywood classics starring Audrey Hepburn and Cary Grant, along with Filipino masterpieces directed by Lamberto Avellana and Eddie Romero.

"A recent favorite is 'In My Life,' starring Jet Li. Hindi ko pa napapanood 'Bar I never dreamed as a child that I'd be heading the MTRCB someday."

Llamanzares looks at her new job as a means to give back to the industry.

"My parents earned a decent living to show for it ... and were able to afford me a good education and comfortable life," she explained. "I consider myself a product of this industry. Through my parents, I learned to appreciate and was inspired by the creative process."

She also learned of the challenges that "confront a producer such as obtaining financial capital, complying with tax regulations and especially negotiating with the MTRCB."

Still, she doesn't regret her closeness to industry people as a detriment. "... I consider it an advantage."

NEXT PAGE

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From obese to foxy lady

By Marinel R. Cruz

EDA Cabrales: "My goal is to be a fitness buff, not a beauty queen."

ACTRESS Eda Cabrales, whose new reality flgoan is currently featured on a billboard on Edsa, said she's still a long way to go from achieving her ideal physique.

"I still want to be more compact and muscular, much like Olympic tennis player Venus Camilla," explains Eda, who now weighs 125 lbs. She confessed to weighing over 200 lbs. when she was 16. "My goal is to be a fitness buff, not a beauty queen."

Ironically, Eda plays the lead character in the new GMA 7 drama series "Beauty Queen," which depicts the glamour, drama and intrigue in the world of beauty pageants.

Playing the character Malu San Miguel, a poor but pageant-bound student under who turns into a beauty queen, Eda has to wear a two-piece bikini.

She felt apprehensive about it, but Eda rose to serve a skimpy outfit for a show. "And I think it's going to be the last," she told Inquirer. Entertainment.

The 18-year-old artist admitted that she never dreamed of becoming a beauty queen even when she was younger. "It was really my mom who wanted to be one, but she was only 5-foot-1."

"Beauty Queen" also features actress Katrina Halili and 2007 Binibining Pilipinas World Maggie Wilson, playing supporting roles. Eda, who was crowned as 1995 Miss Universe Ilocos Sur, 1995 Bb. Pilipinas Universe Jeanne Quiroz is in the beauty contestant stuff, told Eda.

She's been getting tips from the girls, Eda admitted. "But I will have to learn how to go down the stairs gracefully without tripping. It's really not one of my natural talents," she pointed out.

FROM P.1

Five finalists to compete for 'Soundskool' crown

By Tony Maghirang
Contributor

IT'S NOW down to five finalists.

The challengers for the "Soundskool 2010" best college band crown have been trimmed down to five unsigned upstarts from Metro Manila and South to Luzon. They are ABA from De la Salle University – Manila; Kidapawan from De La Salle-STI College Study Soundwave from STI College Muntinlupa; Hot To Part from Centro Escolar University; and Vibes from the University of the Philippines – Los Baños.

Three bands still BC to Boracay for a week-long workshop on how to succeed in the music business. Tips and hands-on help will be provided by industry professionals and recording artists like Callalily.

Grand finale night is on November and will be streamed live on the Internet from Boracay.

The five finalist bands were chosen from 30 semi-finalists selected from over 2,000 aspirants from 400 colleges and universities around the country.

Their debuts before a live audience were first aired as two semi-final showcases at the media hub Dos 2, some 22 miles from Luzon and MOR regular exited the 360 North Hotel Mandaluyong to kick-start their quest for fame and fortune.

Eclectic sounds

Each band displayed their own flair that earned it a slot to the semis. The sound experience is a cover version and some original compositions. The performances recounted with eclectic sounds ranging from alternative rock to cross-pop to R&B.

There were surprises during the first round showcase in Luzon. In one outburst, Pandaya as Edgar's "Bernie" was reworked into a hateful reggae number.

Another band powered up the folk rock of Asin with '50s speed metal.

Discordant

The bands rendered their original songs with varying degrees of success. In some cases, the phrasing of the lyrics and the flow of the music hardly matched.

But generally, the Luzon contingent showed more cohesion and seemed more in control of their performances.

The Visayas and Mindanao contingent showed more cohesion and seemed more in control of their performances.

They were joined by the 23 Luzon-MOR semi-finalists.

Soundskool 2009 grand champion Seven opened the showcase with sultry contemporary fare about "Surrender." It set the general tone for the rest of attractions. Most of the Visayas contenders played more down to sound and spicy to the showcase rock of The Rainchecks, Bamboo and 6Cyclemind.

Creative prowess

For sufficient creative prowess beyond one hand as one Bikolchanol to no-person else – topped by of said Vin Initials' original pop with its own composition, "You Make Our World Collide."

Second to Go post a special heavy rock spin on Hotlatte, while Island Punkster mailed the elements as showcase with the same two sounds of pop-reggae and old-school reggae remainscent of Sand Pulse.

Soundskool regular guest band Callalily closed the event with brilliant displays of rock fundamental pop accessibility.

Greeted by loud screams from mostly female fans, the band played its hits one after the other, keeping the melodic hooks intact.

Hendrix-like riffs

Remembers, each song ended in a melodic fad of disarming drama and Hendrix-like guitar riffs – catchy structures by Callalily front man Kingston Big, big-time.

The year's panel of judges include female Sid Soundskool mentoring promotion executive Ronald Dimendesberg; Callalily lead singer from Quezon; Sony Music Philippines A&R director Vic Manuel-no; and his assistant Jessa Klaus and Tunes recording producer Joel Lourenzo Magno-Bautista.

Now on its ninth season, "Soundskool" is the biggest and most highly anticipated battle of the best college bands in the country.

Previous champions include Silkus, Letters Day Story and last year's big winner from Davao — Seven.

PEPSO Band from Philippine Women's College, Davao

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Meet the new...

From page F1

top Socsian I understand and speak their language."

She doesn't want to be limited by labels like "liberal" or "conservative."

It's all a matter of semantics, she said.

Instead, she vowed "to move to more progressive and proactive in balancing the rights to self-expression of artists, while keeping in mind the rights of the viewers, especially the parents, to be guided on the value-ratings system."

She's betting it's still regulation. "By moving from a censorship to, words a regulatory board... we have united the countries. The MTRCB doesn't delete scenes. It merely views and advises producers to make their own decisions to go ahead with projects."

She would like to encourage "independence and unbiased decisions to help the movie and TV industries realize the value of self-regulation."

Former chair Marilyn Lopez-dela, reminded Librarians to be "strict yet patient" in her new role.

Librarians work and she's fully equipped to do that, myself. "I am a member of a psychology, I experienced a teenager and was a pre-school teacher, too. I think I've learned the value of patience. Like a mother to her children, or a teacher to her students... it is important to communicate with members of the industry, listen to their needs and to show them by example that I am fair, consistent and only have their best interest in mind."

E-mail: bgcentennial@gmail.com

From obese to foxy lady

From page F1

She hopes viewers will not compare her performances to Maggie's. "Come on guys, she was even a pageant, and she is super power compared to me." Liz said. Maggie has her strengths, I have my own. She's a big help to me. She has told me the tricks of the trade, which I would need to use. My job here, apart from acting like a beauty queen, is to entertain viewers, to make them fall in love with my character."

No cosmetic surgery

Liz clarified rumors that she had to resort to cosmetic surgery to achieve her new sexy figure. "That's not true," she stressed. "I've gone through many diets over the years – carb diets, everything. But the last two years, I've been working hard to achieve whatever I have now. I've also been running and working out like crazy. It's not even for this film. It's more for me, for myself that I would achieve a certain physique that I would be very happy with. I may not be perfect, but at least I can say I've already improved, for those who I used to be."

"Beauty Queen" is now GMA 7 from Monday to Friday on the Talkabout time slot. It also features Sherrie Ajanlar, Lito Alcasid, TJ Trinidad, Ayan Rodriguez, Gwen Martin and Elizabeth Oropesa. Joel Lamangan directs.

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Thanks for the movie memories

SO MANY show biz icons have been leaving us of late (Sid Caesar appears to be a "traffic jam" as far as tributes to the dear departed in the biz are concerned.

In just one year, we've had to bid goodbye, farewell and amen to (take a deep breath): Kathryn Grayson, Patrick Swayze, Michael Jackson, Natasha Richardson, Jennifer Jones, Karl Malden, Arne Abrahams, David Carradine, Dom Deluise, Brittany Murphy, Lou Jacobi, Jack Cardiff, Budd Schulberg, David Nivens, Maurice Jarre, Mario Puzo, Ron Silver, Army Archard, Betty Shabazz—and then some.

The big names like Michael Jackson, Patrick Swayze, Dinah Washington and Natasha Richardson were mourned with the deepest sorrow of course, but older film buffs were similarly deeply saddened by the departure of even the relatively "forgotten."

For example, we fondly remember musical star Kathryn Grayson, she of the heart-shaped face and peaches-and-cream complexion, in standard movies like "Show Boat" with Howard Keel and Ava Gardner.

Grayson was a talented singer, as her hits will testify, and breathtaking. As an actress, however, her warbling scores were merely problems. But, we didn't take it against her, because her breezes singing made the big difference.

Jennifer Jones is acclaimed by viewers like

Nestor U. Torre

VIEWFINDER

Older film buffs were deeply saddened by the departure of even the relatively 'forgotten'

both for her dramatic performance in "The Song of Bernadette," in which she portrayed Marian visionary Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France.

Joan Simmons was another star admired both for her beauty and her acting talent. Also an exceptional chanteuse was Natalie Wood's sis, a member of the "royal" Gabor clan (only rejected as British theater diva "royalty."

For his part, Kar Dekkers was hailed as one of Hollywood's best character actors, contributing gray characterization to many an exceptional "role" film.

Most recently, the film world and Godspeed to Tony Curtis, whose standout performances were in "The Defiant Ones" with Sidney Poitier and "Some Like It Hot," with Marilyn Monroe and Jack Lemmon.

That's quite a wide range of characterizations, from, because he played as tough as tough can be in the first film—and was a cute, hilarious cross-dresser in the second!

Also in died, Corrs' friend, Debbie Reynolds, revealed that he wasn't the first choice to play his plum role in the Billy Wilder film (about two men who pretend to be female musicians to escape from hoods who were bent on murdering them). Period production, the movie's producers first wanted Humphrey Bogart to play the part! But, saner minds happily saved the day, and Curtis went on to make his most dazzling character: a big, statuesque millionaire.

Reynolds also revealed that, upon his retirement from acting, Curtis made a reputation for himself as a good painter and maker of "assemblages."

His wife, Janet Leigh, has also passed away, but their daughter, Jamie Lee Curtis, has had a good acting career... and, just like her dad, has launched an alternate career in middle-age—as a writer of very popular short stories for children.

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SAM Milby

Max Eigenmann's . . .

From page F1

I can be wholesome for a change," he jest, I told Mr. Fry that the show should be called "Ha-Ha-Alive" show.

Solo journey

I immensely enjoyed "Eat, Pray, Love" to the point that Julia Roberts' character, Liz Gilbert, inspired me to take a solo journey to Ho Chi Minh. I will go west and eliminate myself."

When my kids and I watched the film, Anne Curtis said her bf Erwan Heussaff were awaked behind us. Jane loved the movie so much as I did, as she tweeted more quotable quotes/beaten.

My first line in the movie "We should all answer the set of during nothing." I find myself saying that. I'll be doing a reunion of the movie while I'm in Vietnam and that's "Uber, Jim, Jose."

Rising star

"Little Star" premieres today after "Naman si Lola" on GMA TV. Filipinoids: Top billed by Mark Anthony Fernandez, Jessa Zaragoza, Pancho Gonda and Jeni Pan, it tells the story of singing child star Diego (Ricky Gadner) and how he touches the lives of the people around him.

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November 5 @ HERITAGE
November 10 @ PAVILION

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November 11 @ HYATT
November 12 @ PAVILION
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November 19 @ HERITAGE

RICHARD MERCK
November 6 @ GLORIETTA

ATE SHAWIE @ 6PM
November 3 @ PAVILION
November 7 @ HYATT

VERNIE VARGA
November 6, 13 PAVILION

JOY VIADO
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November 26 @ MANILA

QUESHE
November 10, 24 @ HERITAGE
November 11 @ HYATT
November 17 @ PAVILION
November 21 @ HERITAGE
November 28 AIRPORT CASINO

ETHEL BOOBA
November 10, 24 @ ANGELES

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November 10 AIRPORT CASINO
November 16 @ PAVILION
November 20 @ HERITAGE
November 21 @ TAGAYTAY
November 30 @ HYATT

RACHEL ALEJANDRO
November 10 AIRPORT CASINO
November 26 @ HYATT

ROCKING REVIVAL @ 6PM
November 19 @ TAGAYTAY

PILITA CORRALES & EDDIE INTTERBEE
November 19 @ GLORIETTA

DALES
November 25 AIRPORT CASINO
November 26 @ PAVILION

NIKKI BACOLOD @ 8PM
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For more inquiries, please contact the PAGCOR Entertainment Dept. at tel. nos. 852-7748 or 852-7754. Look for Stephen Villanueva, Mondays - Fridays from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Max Eigenmann's baby's father still a mystery

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal

WHO'S the dad of Maxene Eigenmann's coming baby? Mly'fan-turned-friend admitted to me that he is possibly the father. I salute my friend for being man enough, unlike other guys who still demand for a DNA test.

"I'm not sure," he said. "But we got intimate in Boracay. If the world pinpoints me as the dad, I would be more than proud to own up to it."

What about Maxene's boyfriend? "I don't know what their status is," he replied. "But I heard break na sila. Maxene is special to me. Di ko pinalalapuyan ang lahat ng oras at wala kaming relasyon. A baby is always a blessing." Pause here to pansinin!

IS "SAF BUAAA" coming to the Kapuso network?

Poor copy

A media insider insists that the real reason why ABS-CBN's "Idol" was axed, aside from poor ratings, is that Sam Milby wasn't too happy with the way the story revolved more around Coco Martin than him.

Personally, I think the series was ill-timed. Since the lead star Sarah Geronimo is being pitted against Chanber, it's inevitable that the outfits by competitors especially because Chanber's phenomenal launch in "Elan" happened around the same time "Idol" started.

To make matters worse, "Idol" is a poor second-rate copy of "Idos." Hopefully, Sarah, Coco and Sam's new projects will regain "Idol worship" for them.

Switching channels?

Could it be true that "Eat Bulaga!" will transfer to the Kapuso network next year? Is that the reason why "Willing Willie" wasn't placed on the noontime slot, aside from Willie Revillame's respect for Tito Sic, Joey and Vic[illegible]? Stay tuned if the the rumor mill "bubulaga" us ONLY.

Why not?

My Dallas friend, Mr. Pa, got the surprise of his life when someone asked him if he would be interested to be part of the kiddie show "Funfare" which will be revived by TV5. "Nakakatawa kasi para sa Pinoy-sa-Dallas ang 'funfare,'" he said. "Ibinalita nga sa akin nung mga nanonood sa[illegible] ng[illegible] nung[illegible] ng[illegible] ng[illegible] nung[illegible] ng[illegible] ng[illegible] nung[illegible] ng

ENTERTAINMENT

Archives, coprod deals as priorities

SANTOS meets with Bill Bowling, location hunter from Hollywood and MPCNet advisor, in Pusan.

By Rayzel San Diego Jr.

Film board chair launches projects in pursuit of a national cinema

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

BRICCIO G. Santos, newly appointed chair of the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP), hit the ground running.

Santos had just returned from Pusan, South Korea, and Hanoi, Vietnam, where he gave keynote Encouragement accumulative interviews on his policy projects—which aim to establish a national cinema or Cinema Pambansa as he has dubbed it.

Santos was recently elected as vice president of the Asian Film Commissioners' Network (AFCNet) in Pusan. He will have a two-year term. Seok-geun Oh of South Korea is the president.)

Considered the biggest organization of film commissioners in the region, AFCNet counts 46 members (44 regular and two associate) from 16 different countries.

Santos articulated the group's most recent meeting during the Asia Film Policy Forum held in Pusan on Oct. 10 and 11.

Main topic in the AFCNet meeting was "reproduction."

Santos related that the "intense and innovative deliberations" yielded positive results. "There was an exchange of ideas. We can learn a lot from each other's experiences and come up with solutions to our common problems."

Santos said that an idea discussed during the meet was the "possibility of drafting bilateral MOAs (Memorandums of Agreement) between member film commissions in order to expedite and facilitate coproduction deals between countries."

Also raised was the viability of establishing "standardized regulations" that could aid coproduction ventures in the region.

While abroad, Santos met with counterparts from Australia and Malaysia. "AFCNet can help promote our country as a film location and a major source of technical and creative manpower."

Another priority for Santos is the realization of a National Film Archives.

"We are looking at the Philippine Information Agency as a temporary location, but we are determined to build a separate facility for the National Archives," he said.

It's a matter of utmost cultural importance, he said.

"By establishing a National Archives, by focusing our past masters and by giving today's youth a solid sense of film history, we can achieve a lot...in the pursuit of realizing a Cinema Pambansa. Once we have a National Archives, everything else will follow," he explained.

Santos said he plans to coordinate with other agencies like the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, to "consolidate all archiving efforts under the FDCP."

Also in the works are film festivals in the provinces—to make internationally acclaimed Filipino movies accessible to the masses.

CHEEK FACTOR

Bush, Jacksons in 'Oprah'

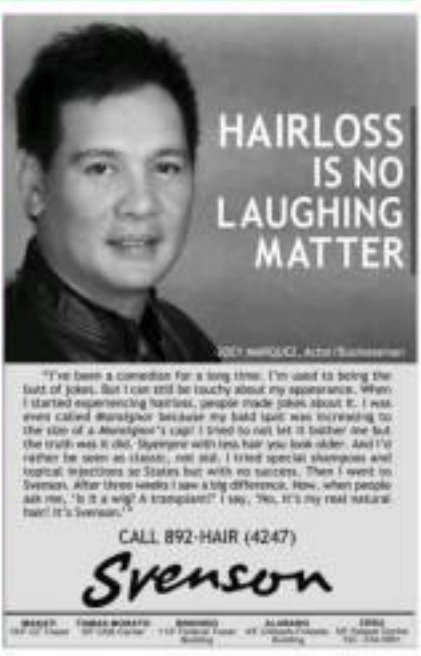
CHICAGO—Former President George W. Bush and Michael Jackson's parents are among the big names "The Oprah Winfrey Show" has booked for November, others excited TV ratings data are monitored.

Hugo Productions released a schedule on Friday, including a show featuring Bush discussing his memoir, "Decision Points," on Nov. 9—the day of its release.

No date was given for the Jacksons' to-session. The production company says Katherine Jackson will talk about her son's life from childhood members to his death. She'll be joined by her husband, Joe Jackson.

Singer and actress Barbra Streisand will appear for an interview and a rare performance on Nov. 16.

On Nov. 2, Nicky Martin will talk about raising twin boys and his decision to come out as gay. AP



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Ribbed Pom: The Cremor	Nov 17, 2010, 03:30 pm
Paguwaka at Papel	Nov 17, 2010, 07:30 pm

OPENS	**OCT 31, 2010, 09:00 pm**
Metro Comet Ho	Nov 03, 2010, 03:30 pm
Tomas Sports Arena	Nov 04, 2010, 03:30 pm
World Trade Tower	Nov 10, 2010, 03:30 pm
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Mel Gibson out; Liam Neeson in

LOS ANGELES—Actor Liam Neeson has been given the custom role lost by Mel Gibson in the sequel to the comedy, "The Rangover," after a tussle on set against the scandal-plagued Oscar star.

Hollywood show business papers said on Friday that Neeson, star of "Love Actually" and "The A Team," would play a tattoo artist in "The Rangover 2," the followup to the raunchy 2009 hit comedy.

Neeson told Variety he "just got a call to do it one day short on 'Hangover 2' as a tattoo artist in Thailand, and that's all I know about it." Gibson, whose reputation has been damaged by leaks of threatening phone calls to his ex-girlfriend, was dropped from the movie this week after unspecified objections by the cast.

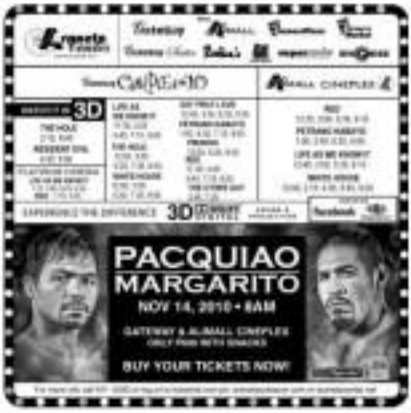
The "Mel Also" actor also offended Hollywood's Jewish community in 2006 with an anti-Semitic tirade that followed a drunk driving arrest.

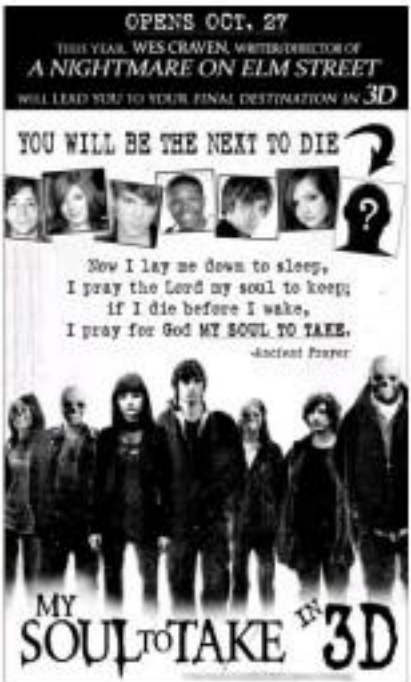
The planned comedy series to "Hangover 2" was widely seen as a way for Gibson to improve his battered public image. The original movie was a popular hit and raked in more than $467 million at global box office.

Celebrity media on Friday speculated that "Hangover" actor Zach Galifianakis may have been the star who most hotly spoke up about not wanting to work with Gibson on the sequel.

Galifianakis said in a radio podcast earlier this month that he was having problems on his latest movie.

"I'm in a deep pocket right now with a movie I'm working on, up in an ice-shrouded mountaintop. But I can't get the guys to [leave]... I'm not making any headway... It's very frustrating," he said on the alternative radio show, Comedy Death-Ray. Reuters





ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

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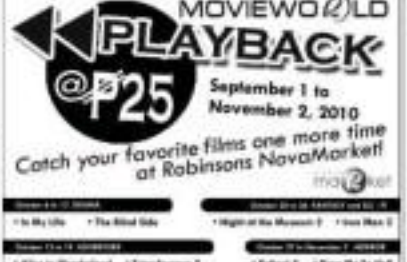

National . . .

From page A4

animal world, will sacrifice in order to preserve future generations.

It's the same story with the great sperm whales, shown in breath-taking detail in this production, as they crowd and hunt all over the globe to feed their young.

The subsequent episodes provide more insights. "Need to Breed" (Nov. 14, 9 p.m.) takes viewers to southern Indian to reveal why animals risk everything on almost impossible voyages.

In "Fare to Survive" (Nov. 21, 9 p.m.) walruses, whale sharks, zebras, mongooses, penguins, and pikadowns vying to survive threats change are forced to travel to breed, feed, and stay alive.

Meanwhile, "Feast or Famine" (Nov. 28, 9 p.m.) shows how millions of creatures are constantly moving to satisfy their hunger.

The production, which took three years to complete, established 670,000 kilometers of travel in 126 seasons, in all continents. It made use of cutting edge surveillance and filming technology to chronicle these scientific findings.

The only issue you might have is that since the series can get so engrossing, you might find the quick narrative style a bit deficient in terms of providing more information on or exposure to your favorite penguin or species. That aside, this a television event that should not be missed. It may be a documentary but it will leave you in many together films heavy-tug because have our

Lindsay Lohan avoids jail

LINDSAY Lohan

LOS ANGELES—Troubled actress Lindsay Lohan avoided more jail time on Friday and was ordered back in a drug and alcohol-rehab program until January, after failing a random drug test last month.

Prosecutors wanted Lohan to be sent back to jail for six months for violating her probation on a 2007 offense for drunk driving and cocaine possession.

But Beverly Hills Superior Court Judge Elden Fox ruled she should remain in the program that she entered voluntarily three weeks ago, and may have until Jan. 5.

Lohan is currently being treated at the Betty Ford Center in southern California in what is her fifth stint in rehab in three years.

"You're wasting these past few months of your life," Fox told Lohan, who cried on hearing his decision.

"You're an addict. I hope you understand that. I think you have to change your lifestyle," he added.

Billing the "Mean Girls" actress that if she does not remain clean she would "deserve what is very lucrative career and profession."

Lohan admitted in September she had tested positive, especially for cocaine, in a court-ordered drug screening shortly after being released early from a delivered rehabilitation program. In August, she served five weeks of a 90-day jail sentence for violating probation in the 2007 case. Reuters

National Geographic highlights 'greatest migration story ever told'

By Jayson O. Briscoe
Correspondent

THE MOST ambitious documentary in its history. That's how the National Geographic Channel sums up "Great Migrations," a seven-part series that follows millions of animals as they move from place to place in an unending struggle to survive.

That the feat has been achieved makes its ambitiousness irrelevant. What is relevant is that this is probably one of the greatest nature stories ever told.

The topic is not really new, and some of the migrations featured are already well-documented.

Epic story

But this series, narrated by acclaimed cinematographer Alec Baldwin, will take viewers closer than ever, in stunning high definition (at least for those with HD sets), into the heart of an epic story that unfolds every day among four earthly consciousness.

Premiering Nov. 7 at 9 p.m. "Great Migrations" tells a massive footage of animals in their natural setting.

It does more than just provide us insights into animals' lives. It shows us the many parallels between animals' and humans' struggles to survive. We may claim to have a higher consciousness, but we, like animals, are motivated and driven by the same forces.

To feed, to breed, to protect our young. These are the very fluid human-to-animal themes that bind us to the earth. And they are the very threads that weave us into the Serengeti, where millions of wildebeests and hundreds of thousands of Zebras prance in their search for seasonal water and fresh grass.

REVIEW

But not all of these will survive the journey as predators abound, such as cheetahs and crocodiles. Starvation-ridden on their part's yearly migration permits for food. Their ferocious clashes, which illustrate the delicate balance of nature, is shown in great detail and drama.

"We are also visitors to the Chinook river Island, off India, where we catch the side of those cameras, into a problem with from one side of the island to the other, to breed and give birth.

From to the elements, automobile traffic, and an outbreak of killer ants, that decimate large chunks of its population, the cycle keeps on, to fulfill their destiny of spawning a new generation.

This production will move you, as much so that you will probably never look at a crab the same way again. In one of the scenes, hundreds are shown struggling to survive, as they make a frantic effort give birth, as it is a must.

Most of the eggs will not survive, but the eventual emergence of millions of little crabs from the water will have you screaming till crispy-critters it seems time.

'Super generation'

The research batteries, which journey from Mexico to Canada and back, unbelievable shown interest from three generations complete one leg of the journey, is of up a month, "super generation" can be born and complete the trip back, it shows how parents, even in the

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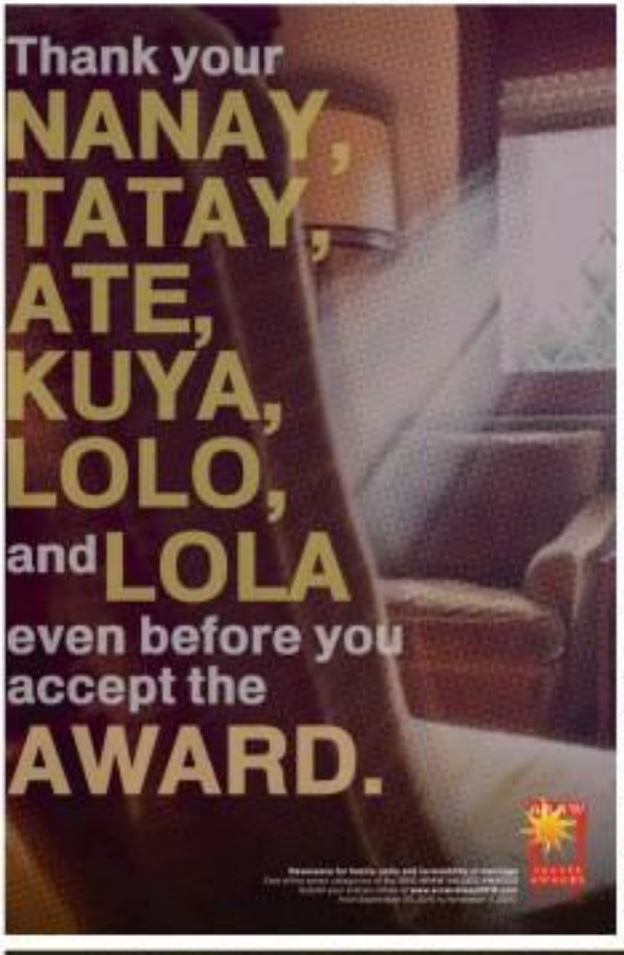


What's behind the breaking news?

SEAN Maniti "Rubberhead" wants fire

"INSIDE ng Pilipino? (INP), a weekly 45-minute news documentary program, gives an in-depth look at the biggest stories aired on IBC-13's newscasts "Unang Hirit," "TV Patrol," and "Frontline."

Each week, two to three stories on how will unfold. Host chosen to show unaired footage, behind-the-scene videos, extended interviews and new information that will reveal the biggest pictures of the featured stories.

On the show's pilot episode, reporter Jorge Cuebas looks back on his coverage of Typhoon "Juan" in Cagayan, where he saw how the province was reduced to ruins, how people there fought to survive and how the government acted to save both lives and property.

Jeff Canoy also recalls back to his investigative piece on child seniors in Davao Oriental, and reveal more of his interaction with the kids, their families and the authorities.

"Inside ng Pilipino," which premieres tomorrow, airs Tuesdays after "Inside" on IBC-13.

Spirit encounters

How would you react if your dog started barking furiously or other senses to be an empty household? What would you think if animals suddenly uncoiled from the presence of your family members?

Animal Planet's "The Haunted" is a chilling new series that delves into the frightening true stories of animal and human hauntings.

The 13-part series airs Wednesdays at 11 p.m., starting Nov. 3, with encore the following Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. and on Saturdays at 3 p.m.

Christmas campaign

GMA's Christmas signature, shot in high-definition (HD) digital video technology, airs for the first time on "24 Oras" tonight.

The plugs titled "Isang Pagkain ang Pasko ng Pilipino Ngayong Pasko," tells the real-life tales of Filipinos who have made a difference in the lives of others. They are also scheduled on airs on GM Cinemax.

CLICK!

The series top-bills Aiko Melendez, Dingdong Dantes, Marian Rivera and Richard Gutierrez.

Their characters are "real-life" heroes," according to director Dado Tuason. "There are people who get out of their way to create a meaningful Christmas for others. These stories will hit you in the heart."

'Halloweiscream'

Ghosts, murderers and bloody bodies top fall Star Movies' "Halloweiscream" scare-fest marathon on Oct. 31, from 12:30 p.m. until midnight.

The horrorfest begins with "The Eye," a remake of the 2002 hit Japanese horror thriller starring Jessica Alba as Sydney, a blind violinist who undergoes corneal transplant. While the operation is a success, she soon realizes that the girl more than just her sight—she's now haunted by horrific visions experienced by her cornea donor.

Completing the scare fest marathon are "The Ruins," "My Bloody Valentine," "Terror," "All the Boys Love Mandy Lane" and "Midnight Meat Train."

HUNGRY FOR KNOWLEDGE
live curious NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL

Queens Lee-Chua shares her secrets for raising a child who enjoys writing /H3

LEARNING

Editor Chelo Bandi Formoso
Email: learning@inquirer.com.ph

Bench-sponsored IIE Serial Reading
"Legend of the Pony's Tears" Chapter 10 / H4

Student artists depict life in RP

By Tina G. Santos

THIRTY young artists, out of 1,660 participants, received awards or the recent 43rd Shell National Students Art Competition (NSAC), considered the country's longest-running national competition for promising artists.

Almost all the winners in the different categories were from Metro Manila schools, except in the watercolor category.

Elton Miles Villanueva of the University of the Philippines-Diliman won first prize in the oil/acrylic category for his "Accidentally on Purpose" that combined art and vandalism.

Second was "Mona-mania: A Portrait of an Unlearned Family" by Brizalede Dalino of the Philippine Women's University, and third was "Behind the Smile" by Divinaeris Aquino of Pateros State University.

Honorable Mentions were Pierre Paper" by Thaddeus Bugaduan of the College of the Holy Spirit, "Eat me first of the Last Morning" by Rene Sherwine Bautista of Bukidnon State University, and "Pagkasiri Lahat ngayon Hindi..." by Mark Benamin of Technological University of the Philippines.

In the watercolor category, Jennifer Angeles of the University of Southern Philippines won first with his "Monocubikya Dyan Tabako," a work that drew inspiration from a display case. Second was "Isang Punso Hinugot ng Realidad ang mga Child-like Ang Ambisyon" by Orel Angelo Bolinas of UP and third was "Let's Start with Pretend" by Rudolf Bebras of Dalubgit "Simang" Kindergarten Institute of Science and Technology.

Honorable Mentions were "Dendindo" by Frances Mariel Ann" Kindergart" by Nico dames, both of Far Eastern University, and "Bonay ng Dahong ng Buhay" by Mister Amor Cristino of UP-Diliman.

Fine print winner in the sculture category was Aris Aguino of the University of the East, who created junk art from consumers and debris of youth for "Child-hood Memories." Second was the interactive piece "Pop out" by Jeremie Hope of Carlos Hilado Memorial State College-Talisay and third was "Manifest" by Erwin Marinduq Jr. of the University of Santo Tomas.

Honorable Mention were "Kindness of Hope" and "Bye!-(in/Pag-out" by 1021's Boss Rusty Barrera and Gael Pascual, respectively, and "Hope" by Andrea Mogot of UST.

First print in the digital fine arts category was won by Mikael Sudan of Polytechnic University of the Philippines for "Mind Architecture" that showed how the human mind achieved balance between stability and adaptability. Second was "Travelers and Souls" by Ma. Jessica del Ignacio of UP and third was "Pat of Hearts" by Miguel Benjamin Sendico of UST.

Honorable Mentions were "Organic World" by 0521's Marion Green and "This is for Her" and "Lady Archer" by UST's Jay Alexander Santos and Jhonard Ian Gonzales.

The categories were open-themed.

Patriotic art

In the Calendar category, entered in digital fine arts, participants reached out the theme "1001 Pilipinas" to highlight the 43rd anniversary of the contest while encouraging a new breed of patriotism through art.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. chair and president Edgar Chua said the Calendar category was meant to encourage student artists to pay tribute to Mother-land.

The winning works would be featured in the 2012 corporate calendar of Pilipinas Shell.

Artists to be featured are UE students Bryan Jandoni for "Happy Pilipinas," Catherine Capistrano for "Fragile, Handle with Care," and Ronald Glenn Reyes for "Mayken Endorsed Pilipinas"; Brandle Kate Mora of College of the Holy Spirit for "Tanghalibang Barilan ito," and UST students Raymond Bernard Quinsio for "Isang Watawat, Isang Lipi" and Raven Louise Magsaysay for "Mithiin Pilipino ito Pag-usa sa Kabuuan ng Pilipinas)."

Over a million-peso worth of cash prizes were given away to winners, plus medals and art supply items.

Schools of first prize-winners received special prizes for their Faculty Development Programs.

The annual NSAC is undertaken by Shell companies in the Philippines to support art-related arts. It aims to encourage creativity among students.

Started in 1981, the competition was temporarily suspended in 1987 and resumed in 1989.

Guest speaker Rafi Arregunaga of the Society of Philippine Sculptors urged the young artists to face challenges.

Dean said, "For us, the NSAC is a yearly celebration not just of magnificent artworks, but of the beauty of homegrown talents that we are fortunate to have within our midst."

He said, "Each year, NSAC participants enrich our nation's culture and heritage through their contributions of unique masterpieces to the repository of Philippine art."

The first 100 works from the 43rd Shell National Students Art Competition will be on public exhibition until Oct. 30 at the ground-floor gallery of Ayala Museum in Makati City. Admission is free.

"ACCIDENTALLY ON PURPOSE" by UP's Elton Miles L. Villanueva

"CHILDHOOD MEMORIES" by UP's Ace L. Aquino

"MIND ARCHITECTURE" by PUP's Mikhael G. Bañas

"THEMOKRETS DYAN TUMADOK" by UNP's Brendlee V. Arquero

"HAPPY PILIPINAS!" by UE's Reynan Sanchez

Great Scott!

Anvil Publishing has come out with a well-written and wittily illustrated series of travel books by sixth grader Scott Lee Chua

By Chelo Bandi-Formoso

WHAT A DELIGHT to find a travel book that rose to the class!

Scott Lee Chua's "Top Ten Travels," recently launched by Anvil Publishing at Rockwell Tent Cinema at Rockwell Center, is a series that truly appeals to both "kids and kids at heart."

Scott has adopted the David Letterman Top Ten format for his travel books (at 64 pages they are really booklets), so far focused on New Zealand and the cities of Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo.

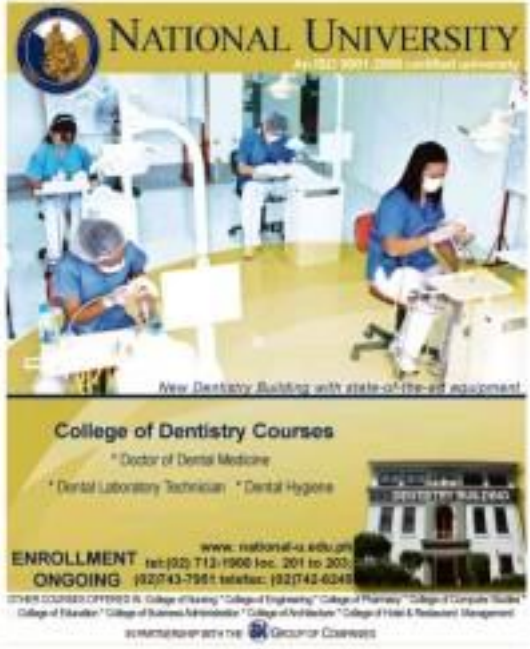
His books have devoured from the travel journal tradition made famous by the late Jackie Kennedy Onassis and her sister Lee. The Bouvier girls produced a travel memoirs, complete with pictures and drawings, the original of which is still among the Kennedy family memorabilia housed at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston, Massachusetts.

Like all kiddie scrapbooks, Scott's targets are rare and personal. Yet his wanderlust writes to an eggedy scrapbook. The books are well written and diverting humorous.

No. 8 in the New Zealand book says, "The hot lava at Whakaarewarewa Thermal Valley." Scott is referring to the explosions of the geysers, mud pools and steam vents at Te Whakarewarewa. "I dare you to say this five times, fast!" he writes.

For No. 9 in the Tokyo book "Tip-top the tallest high-tech toilet in the world," Scott writes, "If it is yours to fail! I looked forward to toilet time each day, and to my mother's dismay, I tried to prolong the experience."

Mom is Learning columnist Queena Lee-Chua.



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UERM to open first Philippine School for Prosthetics, Orthotics

THE UNIVERSITY of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center Inc. (UERMMMCI), in cooperation with Nippon Foundation and Cambodia Trust, is set to open the Philippine School for Prosthetics and Orthotics (PSPO). The first of its kind in the country and only the 12th in the world, the PSPO is geared towards training, service and research on the fabrication, development and clinical application of mobility devices for persons with disability (PWD).

The PSPO was formalized with the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) by UERMMMCI president Ramon Ortirez Jr., Nippon Foundation chairman Yohei Sasakawa and Cambodia Trust executive director Carmen Hartis. The MOU was signed on Oct. 19 in the UERMMMCI College of Medicine Auditorium. It provided for a 10-year, $7-million grant for the PSPO curriculum.

The PSPO will be under the UERMMMCI College of Physical Therapy and will be based on the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics standards.

The PSPO's Bachelor of Science in Prosthetics and Orthotics course offering will entail a total of five school years and will be available in November. It will be open for school year 2014-2015. The program will benefit the Philippines immensely, considering that 5 percent of the Filipino population suffer from disabilities due to amputations, limb loss, paralysis, weakness or pain and are unable to go to school, seek employment and handle self-care due to the absence of prosthesis or orthotic devices. The PSPO would then make prosthetic and orthotic services and devices more affordable and more readily available to the country, allowing PWDs to become more productive, empowered and fulfilled.

For more information on the PSPO, please contact the UERMMMCI College of Physical Therapy at 713-0961 local 251 or 715-3333 or visit www.uerm.edu.ph.

DLSU MedTech Project wins National Engineering Competition

Two engineering projects from De La Salle University, one designed for stroke-patient rehabilitation, the other a processor of malunggay leaves, won first and third place, respectively, in the 2013 Student Engineering Design Competition sponsored by the Philippine Association for Technological Education (PATE). The machines were the under-graduate thesis projects of Manufacturing Engineering and Management (MEM) students, under the guidance of department head Dr. Wilo Bagtasa. The team of Matthew Ang, Luke Limlaksheng, Winston Perez, Lyka Sayson, and Mirko Tampo, were named National Grand Winner for their robotic arm rehabilitation machine, a bio-technology project that aims to help stroke patients regain control of their arm through the use of arm-loss motion therapy and a biofeedback system. James Medenia, Cesar Ang, Jose Paul Cristobal, Precious Mauregan, and Enrique Palomar grabbed the third spot for their energy-saving leaves drying and powdering machine. Their project showed potential commercial applications with its Programmable Logic Device which automates the drying and powdering of up to 40 kilograms of one kilogram per batch, a process that normally takes a much longer period by hand.

SEMINAR ON VALUES ATTITUDES TOWARDS LEADERSHIP AND PROTOCOL

The University of the East Manila and Cabanatuan Tourism and Hospitality Management students arranged a seminar with Dr. Robert J. Ian Joseph Jr., unit chief and founder of Tourism Educators and Movers (TEAM) Philippines and League of Tourism Students of the Philippines (LTSP) about Values and Attitude towards Leadership and Protocol and Ethics in Diplomacy, held at the UE Manila Auditorium.

Central Luzon State U bags championship in National Poultry Quiz Bee

THE CENTRAL Luzon State University College of Veterinary Science and Medicine grabbed the top spot in the National Poultry Quiz Bee held recently at SM Megatrade Hall. A first timer in the contest, the CLSU team bested 12 other teams from different state many schools in the country. The champion team was composed of Mitzi Arbico, Evelyn Saddul, and Christian Dagdagan who received P60,000 cash prize and a trophy. Two teams from the University of the Philippines-Los Baños (UPLB) landed in the second and third spots while the team from the De La Salle-Araneta University grabbed the fourth place while another team from CLSU emerged fifth. In another contest, the World Poultry Day Quiz Show held at the Ateneo de Davao, Calipan Tandog, the two-man team from the CLSU copped the second and third places. The CLSU teams which garnered the second and third places were composed of Errol Jay Delgado, Felipe Macalalad, and Jovilin Gonzales; and Allen Velmas, Evelyn Saddul, and Christian Dagdagan, respectively. The UPLB women's side team, one of the five teams from the said university, got the top spot. According to Dr. Rodolfo Mendrano and Dr. Evelleton Geron, both faculty members of the college who participated in the seminar and quiz show were the UP Rodeo teams, UP Alpha Omicron Society team, and the De La Salle-Araneta teams.

UST top private university in Nutrition and Dietetics board exams

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas remains to be the top performing private university in the recent board examinations for Nutrition and Dietetics. The overall passing rate of the University is 81 percent, while the national passing rate is 79.4 percent. The Thomasian community commends the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics of the College of Education for its consistent outstanding performance. And also congratulates all Thomasian board passers especially Hazel Ann C. Alcalde who earned the fourth highest passing grade of 95.4 percent.

Jollibee Foundation's feeding program

MANILA, S. Enverga University Foundation extends its community service through Jollibee Foundation's "SLF Busog, Lusog, Talino Feeding Program" recently at Padre Burgos Central Elementary School in Padre Burgos, Quezon. Two hundred fifty students from six beneficiary schools are guaranteed to enjoy 120 school days of nutritious lunch feeding to those below normal weight-for-age public elementary pupils from Grades 1 and 2. The beneficiaries schools are Gpa Elementary School, Binagasbas Elementary School, Yaan Elementary School, Dandayan Elementary School, Kinagunan Elementary School and Padre Burgos Central Elementary School. Former Padre Burgos Mayor Commander Wilfredo, Jr. joined the event together with Engkcto Iyan administrator Esther Pastores, District Supervisor and Ariola Lontoc, Education program Supervisor. Anthony Rosendo Fausto, MD, MPH of the Zuelling Family Foundation delivered his inspirational message.

UPLB Chancellor beefs up biotech education

UP LOS Baños is leading the campaign to upgrade biotechnology education nationwide and Chancellor Dr. Luis Rey Velasco is proud that it was his institution that took the subjects for it.

Velasco said UPLB has pioneered an academic program that grants baccalaureate degrees for agribiotechnology, which emphasizes on using biotechnology to develop new crop varieties suited to Philippine conditions.

In contrast to traditional plant breeding that has genetics periods ranging from 12 years to 15 years, biotechnology can produce new strains using shorter production cycles.

As a result of UPLB's efforts, the country has already produced Plenty GMOs (genetically modified organisms).

For Velasco, biotechnology develops new varieties with better qualities, something like designer plants, and these could be armed with genetic traits that make them durable to grow under extreme weather conditions.

He noted that the search for new genes is essential to improve the traits of plants and animals that very many insects have become a significant source.

Another reason for offering the degree is to give students a new field that is characterized by thorough research relevant to current needs.

"We need to offer a degree program that will be attractive to the young people."

Boy Abunda has a new profession

CELEBRITY endorser and TV host Boy Abunda has taken a new challenge that of an educator at The Polytechnic University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication Arts under the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEP).

Just as he has shown his mettle in this chosen craft, Abunda early on is doing exceptionally well in his new-found profession.

In celebration of the World Teachers' Day on Oct. 5 as declared by the Department of Education and Unesco, Abunda was cited by PWU as one of the top 10 faculty members for the first trimester of the school year 2013-2014.

Abunda likewise holds a PWU certificate from a seminar course as the HDR (Bridge 2 Bachelor) International Relations and Diplomacy School headed by Ambassador Rosario Manalo. At present he is enrolled in the School of Arts and Science working on his Master of Arts in Communication.

Starting the first semester of school year 2013-2014 (June to September), Abunda known in showbiz as the King of Talk, taught Radio and Television Principles and Practices to third year students of the School of Arts and Sciences.

Abunda said it was his dream to teach. "I am excited doing this new chapter in my life," he said.

In class which takes three to four hours, Abunda shares with the students his experiences and knowledge as a television and radio personality.

"At the same time," he added, "I learn something new from students which I find fulfilling."

Regina Belmo one of his students said, "Mr. Abunda is accommodating, entertaining and full of knowledge. He advised us that where you come (for world) of media, you have to be passionate about your job and must be willing to learn just like a student."

This was concurred by Amy Faith Bryce, another student who said, "when he talks you really have to listen."

MOA SIGNING BETWEEN GHOSIS AND EARIST

Ghosis Training Centre Inc., an international education provider and one of the companies under the Greek-Australian Consortium Ramon Kondos Group Inc. said EARIST (Colegio Normal) Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology) is a

chartered state college which offers various courses for undergraduate, graduate, and post graduate programs. EARIST as the joint educational institution through the auspices of Commissioner Rene S. Escalon, CPC, aims to attain the standard of Spanish and English education in the Philippines by way of integrating the innovative program, the IELTP (Intensive Speech Training Program). IELTP is designed to fit the needs of graduating students to be equipped and ready to face with the necessary skills needed for a secured working environment. In photo (seated from left: vice president Maria Soorban, GCE, Commissioner Rene S. Escalon, CPCE, Eduardo S. Cadiz, president, EARIST, and Joy Cherie C. Ortigoncillo, president, GTC; (standing from left) Matthew Chong, president, The Executive Head Co., Ron Calderon, vice president, EARIST, and Irene Cubio, CHRM).

Raise a reader to develop a writer

LAST PAGE at Bestsellers in Robinsons Galleria, one 12-year-old was hooked into the first three books in his "Top Ten Travels," focusing on Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Tokyo (Japan), and New Zealand (Auckland and Rotorua).

Despite the threat of a supertyphoon, the talkfest was good, probably due to the mother (Jacqueline Lazaro) of children's travel books does by lots downtown.

After Scott wrote an article about his Japan adventures for this section (April 13), everyone asked how we raised a boy to write.

Honestly, my husband and I did not consciously set out to raise Scott to become one. But we tried our best early on to make him love reading on his own for pleasure.

Read first

We are a household of readers. Scott's late grandpa always had newspapers like Titas, My husband reads business news. I read non-fiction and fiction alike, so any topic, as long as I feel the book is worth my while, I will read. Scott inherited his habit. We gave the boys parenting magazines to read, and asked her to forgo television for books.

At two years old, Scott read his first book, "Berenstain Bears' B. Book." To our delight, he mastered phonics unconsciously (see "Phonics").

Then he read dinosaur books. We never told him that the names were complicated, so he never learned to fear words, even the multi-syllabic.

There was no stopping him after that—"Family Boys," popular science books, "Chronicles of Narnia," magic books, Jules Verne, Harry Potter, political satires, local newspapers, Percy Jackson, "Hunger Games," and then, to my delight, "Lord of the Rings."

I know how off-putting the large strategy council in the home of my college students confessed that, though they hated the movies, they could barely go beyond the first chapter of the books that were full of lengthy descriptions.

After Scott was halfway through the last book, I casually asked him how it was.

"Wonderful!" was the instant answer. I was surprised. "Didn't you find the descriptions of Middle-Earth boring?" I asked.

"Sometimes," he admitted. "But I understand the whole thing better, since I know all the stories and names among the swords." I stopped worrying after that.

Few distractions

We have done our best to help our son develop good study habits early on. Through the years, Scott has not indulged in many of the leisure activities of his peers. He does not watch TV (only selected DVDs on weekends). He does not play video games (except Wii Sports). He spends only 30 minutes a day on the computer (completing research and homework, including e-mail to teachers).

Does he feel deprived? No. The TV shows he likes are already on disk, and our family tries to catch a good movie every other week (and talk lengthily about it).

When his friends visit, they bring video games. In school, he visits the computer laboratory to make integration sheets and to do presentations.

Children need free time to be on their own, to rest, to reflect, and to create. Scott likes to write poetry, rap songs and other music pieces, and do artwork.

At age five, he wrote a superheroes story; a year after, a poem about Fluid, published in Author Inquirer. He did a painting for a fireworks-display historical contest and won fourth place in UPIC (the two poets and pizza are the best prizes on list, he says, better than medals).

We encourage him to read widely, to avoid overuse of cliches, generally overdramatic, not to use glory for his own enjoyment.

We require only one thing: That Scott put time and effort into those activities. When Ateneo Publishing asked him to write a book on his favorite travel books, he spent several days, dictionary in hand, to finish it. Then Ateneo asked seasoned writer Isaac Belmonte to edit his work.

The same thing happened with the artwork—Scott sat down many times to draw Filipino renditions of his travel books, he spent several days, dictionary in hand, to finish it. Then Ateneo asked seasoned writer Isaac Belmonte to edit his work.

Writing is a craft. If children want to write (or learn or do music), they need regular practice. If their days are filled with tutorials or computer games, they will never have the chance to do so.

Guide gently

Once children learn to read for pleasure, almost always they will gravitate toward writing. Once they have been exposed to the power of words, they will want it for themselves.

The beginning writers, as it is for readers, the rule is: Write (and read) what you love. For parents, the message then is: Provide children with opportunities to express themselves and, more importantly, take time to guide them.

For beginning writers, the best teachers are parents. If you know how to read, then you know how to write. Workshops are more appropriate when children already have started to love writing on their own. Turning kids around someone may backfire—if writing is seen as a chore, then kids will never want to write.

Aside from traveled with us when he was six, I asked him to jot down or draw the things he saw. He wrote (or, rather, in a small notebook for hotel stationery) as all times. He records his thoughts every night to keep his impressions fresh. When we reach home, he transcribes those thoughts into stories that he tells family and friends. Now, they have been compiled in a book series.

Parents, never ever do the writing for your children! Writing for pleasure is not graded. Children need to express their ideas, not their parents' or tutors' thoughts.

An English teacher told me, "I can identify the kids whose parents do the writing for them. When I give essays as homework, they submit good work. But when essays are done in class, there is no improvement in their writing at all."

How can skills improve if others people do the work for them, and the kids do not read?

To raise writers, raise readers first. Minister distractions. Give children space and time to think and express themselves. The rest will take care of itself. By the way, Scott's books are available in National Bookstore and Powerbooks.

E-mail the author at lifeabookaday@yahoo.com.

HALAL FAN'S Ambassador Dato Seri Dr. Ibrahim Saad and New Zealand's Consul Heather Eames are shown with the Chua family, Queena, Scott and Keith (left, center and right), during the launch of Queena's book "What Parents, Students and Teachers Should Know" and Scott's "Top Ten Travels."

Teacher Mai, my hero

By Reinaldo M. Tiamzon
2nd place winner
Pupil/Smart Essay Writing Contest for Teachers' Month Celebration 2010

IT STILL surprises me that someone who is a virtual stranger and is not a relative can affect my life so much.

I am a Subanen, a member of an indigenous tribe in our municipality. Here, the term *kids* refers to orphaned children with ignorance.

The mamita, of course, are quite obvious. Most landowners of my tribe cannot go to school because of the distance and the cost of education. Despite all this, I did not let my big dreams.

I enrolled in high school, even if I had to walk five kilometers to get to school. I put up an *dampa* to prepare my things and do my share of household chores.

At around 5 a.m., I started walking to school so I would not be late.

But I almost gave up on my dream to finish high school because of financial issues.

God is good, however. A teacher in our school offered to pay for my miscellaneous fees and even provided me some school supplies without asking anything in return. I thought I had to study hard for her to receive her generosity.

I have seen many people from my tribe who had to do so much in exchange of lower dues. But this teacher did not demand anything from me. For the first time I felt like I was somebody special. Someone who barely knew me decided to support my education.

This teacher's kindness inspired me to do better in my studies. I may not be the brightest in my class, but I can proudly say that I have good grades. I was in the top five in my class for six years, quite a feat for someone who belongs in an "ignorant" tribe, don't you think?

I did not get the chance to really know this teacher before she kept her distance. I wanted to give her bananas and boiled peanuts but she always seemed very busy.

But now I have the chance to know her better. I envision in third year high school (she is my teacher), who had been supporting my education for the last two years, is now one of my teachers.

Well, she finally took shape in my mind. The once merely "given" to me has become an "impress" to the Subanon language, I can call her "M'langan Mimita."

When I look at her, I always remember the prized two-carat of solitaire I was donating her birthday dress. I brought them home and what a surprise my family had. You may ask...

"What's the big deal?" For my family who can barely afford to make both ends meet, it is.

I seldom laugh. Perhaps poverty and my being a Subanon have taken away that ability. But her sense of humor, her games and her skill in choosing make me look forward to her class with great joy.

For the first time in my life, I won a little prize for an oral project—acting out the role of a machinist wearing people of extraterrestrial dress. I gained confidence in myself and my belief that ordinary people like me can do big things become stronger.

Now, I believe to me; I believe in Reinaldo. It may sound like this is something that does not usually happen because most of us think that we ordinary people are second-class people.

I know that words are not enough to pay tribute to a good teacher like her who has inspired me to do better than my best. But I know that my song me to make everybody proud knowing I am getting good grades, behaving well, and believing in myself are gifts she would love to receive.

This good teacher is Mamita Rael Lavapuengco. She will always be teacher Mai to me, my hero.

(Reinaldo M. Tiamzon is a third year student at Kimpanon National High School in Zamboanga del Norte. The teacher who inspired this essay still teaches at the same school.)

Duet pioneers housing program for teachers

The PLDT Smart Foundation (PSF) and the municipal government of Daet, Camarines Norte, are supporting the Department of Education's Project Shelter that aims to provide housing to public school teachers.

The PSF, through its Gabay Guro program, will provide the P15-million seed money for the development of the Gabay Guro Teachers Town Village on a site provided by the city.

Project Shelter aims to help teachers own homes through affordable financing schemes.

Gabay Guro, a PSF flagship program, aims to uplift the quality of education in the country by helping improve the lives of teachers and would-be teachers, among others.

Gabay Guro chair Chona A. Cabal, PLDT-SVP and corporate secretary, said the assistance for the housing project was a new feature of the program. PLDT-Smart public affairs head Ramon R. Isberto said this was the first project that had a direct impact on teachers' personal welfare.

City Mayor Tito Sarte Sarion said Daet and the Bicol Development Mutual Fund-Chip Bicol already had an agreement for subsidized housing for teachers.

Education Secretary Bro. Armin A. Luistro, FSC, said partnerships with groups like PSF and the city of Daet could help improve the lives of teachers.

(FROM left) Cabal, Luistro and Sarion

CONFERENCE ON READING AND MATH

School administrators and reading and mathematics coordinators attended the Scholastic Expo 2010, a two-day conference that showcased Scholastic's Assessment and Enrichment Programs for Reading and Math (AEP-Reading and AEP-Math). (From left) Frank Wang, Scholastic Asia president; Marivel Viñarta, Scholastic business development manager; Nonoi Reyes, Reading Association of the Philippines president; Sally Lukanda, International Reading Association board member and Scholastic Educational consultant; Maggie Tan, Scholastic Asia vice president; Rando Pineda, Scholastic Education and Trade manager; Prof. Lisa Dias De Rivera, De La Salle University; Dr. Teresita Ruiterez, St. Paul College-Pasig director; Prof. Norah Hermosa, UP Diliman; Victor Villanueva, Scholastic educational consultant; and Rommel C. Morales, Online Scholastic general manager.

LAW AND SCIENCE EDUCATION

Agham party-list Rep. Angelo B. Palmones (center) talked about "legislative support in improving science education" at the 16th general assembly of the Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Education. Others in photo are PUSE's Dr. Milagros O. Ibe, Senator Sen. Salvador H. Escudero III and Dr. Teresita Ruiterez; and Phoebe Cortes, Philippine Foundation for Science and Technology chair.

Fun way to learn ABCDE

From page H4

Jaschkowitz was won by Lingsat Gum-School Dists Bermudez, La Union, Region 1) with "Hard-chore Pyramid and Me." Magsaysay Elementary School District City Region II) was second with "Mrs. Team" and Tetuan Central School (Zamboanga City Region IX) was third. Lamed Elementary School in Leyte was the People's Choice.

Gubernori Abaloz of Cordillera Career Development College (La Trinidad, Benguet, CAR) topped the essay contest. Second was Sara Marie Gaed of Lukao Dalin Elementary School (Tondo, Manila, NCR); and third was Jay Franco Macatuno of Bolo Central Elementary School (Bolo City, Region VI). Tetuan Central School got the People's Choice award.

In the sandwich art competition, Sical Central School (Tacloban City, Region VIII) was first with its "Most Yupp Sandwich." Cogtas Orient School's (Cogtas in Oro City, Region X) "Chess Whiz Sandwich" was second and Sophia School Inc.'s (Mercedes, Bulacan, Region III) "Kuali Chocs White Sandwich Story" was third. The People's Choice award went to Rizal Central School.

THE HOMEGROWN sandwich of the Rizal Central School in Tacloban City was first in the Sandwich Art competition.

Great Scott!

From page H3

(See "Timeline" on Page H3.)

Dad Smith Chua, according to Scott, rejoined when they got to Midhaven, "the coolest electronic city on earth," not just Tokyo, mind you.

The experiences Scott have dovetailed in his books on breathtaking adventures.

In Kuala Lumpur, he went skydiving at Genting Highlands. In New Zealand alone, the boy was able to ride a bicycle, a luge, a 4x4 Cruiser 4Hed buggy, a fifteen-foot jetboat bungee jump from a moored raft, and a helicopter from extended personal transporter).

As he bartamented, "Your kids will most likely beg you for the same thrills, if they read Scott."

Most children who travel have to make do with their own scrapes-bruisings. In Scott's book, he had Rommel "Gimmy" Estanislao, an artist who a flyout as both bruise graphics and traditional manual art, to illustrate Top Ten Travels. The artwork for Tokyo Top 3: "Bites on Tokkyuda," by itself, is worth the price of the book.

On every page, Scott is drawn holding an umbrella, a sticker versatile accessory for a young traveler who may need a third leg or a protection against bad weather or an imaginary weapon.

The Xavier School child grabbed an essential going on trips with his parents at age 6 and says, "we don't travel the way other people do ... we want to see our own pace, and linger in spots we love."

Cross fount: Your umbrella like a guaranteed passport to pleasure.

bench/

INQUIRER IN EDUCATION

WAN IFRA

LEGEND OF THE PONY'S TEARS

ITHE STORY SO FAR... Little Wolf and the pony are enjoying a walk in the mountains when a cougar chases them. The boy jumps on the pony's back, and the swift pony outruns the cougar. After the brave pony saves Little Wolf's life, they become brothers. Each day the boy and the pony ride through the mountains.

Chapter 10: The Removal

Story by Mary Phelps
Illustrated by Vicki Wallace

THE NEXT day, the pony waited for Little Wolf to come. His sensitive ears strained for the sound of their signal, a whistle, but no sound came. Maybe the boy is late today. He will come soon, the pony thought to himself.

The sun began to sink behind the mountains. Darkness fell around the pony like an inky blanket. With the stars as his only light, the pony kept his eyes on the ridge hoping to see Little Wolf. All day and still night. The little pony waited for Little Wolf. But the boy never came.

The next morning dawned bright and beautiful. The pony watched the sunrise. Its rays chased the darkness away, and its light shone through the smoky mist that hugged the mountaintops. Today, he will come, the pony thought to himself. The pony was sure that soon he would be hearing Little Wolf's whistle. But the whistle never came. It never came that morning or the next. Still the pony waited.

Many days passed. Each day the pony would wait for Little Wolf, but Little Wolf did not come. The little pony couldn't understand it. Had the boy not promised that he would never leave? Were they not brothers? A great sadness fell upon the little pony. But still he did not give up hope.

Not a day went by that the pony did not hope for Little Wolf's return. But when the pony did not know was that Little Wolf could not come to the clearing. Something awful had happened to him.

Just before Little Wolf was leaving to go into the mountains to see the pony, he heard his mother call out his name. She never sounded odd. The boy turned to see strange men in blue uniforms ride up to their house. They were soldiers!

Two of the soldiers got off their horses. They were armed with rifles. The men came toward his mother. They began talking, but the boy could not make out what they were saying. Us the Wolf ran to his mother's side.

"I'm not up your things, my son," Little Wolf's mother said calmly. "We are leaving."

"Not so fast for that," one of the men snapped. "There's orders."

At gunpoint, the men forced Little Wolf and his mother to leave their home. They began walking. Brother Little Wolf saw his mother know where they were being taken. His mother tried not to show her fear, but the boy knew that she was scared. Little Wolf's knees was filled with dread.

The boy and his mother walked a long way. Little Wolf's mother kept him close. Occasionally, the boy would sneak a glance at the soldiers. Little Wolf looked at the men's faces. They are all were grim expressions. Some looked weary, as if they would rather be someplace else.

The men led Little Wolf and his mother to a stockade. It resembled the loop of his uncle's home pen! There were already many people in the stockade. Through the crowd of people, he saw his uncle's beautiful face. His heart soared for a brief moment, only to sink again. She was a prisoner too! His aunt rushed to them. She put her arms around his mother. The two women clung to each other.

Little Wolf looked around for his uncle. He saw him at the far end of the stockade. He and others of his clan were huddled together in a group. They looked lost and confused themselves, but the boy could hear the anger in their voices.

For months, Little Wolf, his mother, and his people were kept in the stockade.

They still didn't know what was going to happen to them. The soldiers would only answer when tried to take care of their families, but there wasn't enough food to eat. Little Wolf was hungry most of the time.

The boy saw a group of younger children playing games. The elders kept a watchful eye. Little Wolf sighed. He didn't know if he would ever feel like playing again.

One day Little Wolf overheard his uncle and the men talking. The boy strained for the first time how cruel his uncle looked.

"I heard one of the soldiers say that we are leaving tomorrow," Uncle said. "We are to journey west."

That night, Little Wolf could not sleep. It was very cold and there were not enough blankets to go around. Little Wolf shivered.

"You are freezing," his mother said. "Come over to me." His mother wrapped her warm arms around him, but still the chill remained. The cold seemed to sink deep in Little Wolf's bones.

Little Wolf looked at up at the dark, silent mountains. As far as all the other nights, he thought of the pony, his brother. Would he ever see the little pony again?

Next Monday: The Trail of Tears

Activity guide

Reading and comprehension

>> Chapter 10 describes how the little pony waited for Little Wolf to return. Pretend that you are Little Wolf and write a letter to the pony explaining why you couldn't return. (Be brief, only! There is a very good chance that Little Wolf would have been able to write that letter. Many of the Cherokee were literate and could read and write both English and Cherokee.)

>> The author writes: "He and the others of his clan were huddled together in a group." Look up the word "clan" in the dictionary. Write the meaning of clan on a piece of paper. Can you think of any other cultures that have clans?

>> In your own words, describe how you think the pony and Little Wolf are feeling in Chapter 10.

Newspaper Connection

>> Little Wolf and his mother were taken by soldiers and placed in a stockade. The author based this part of the story on real historic events. The people of the Cherokee nation were forcibly removed from their homes and made to travel west to Oklahoma. Using the Internet, see if you can find an article about people having to leave their homes or about people going on a journey.

Fun way to learn ABCDE

Nutrition-focused contest reaps winners from RP schools

By Stephen Norvis A. Padilla
Contributor

Another First for the Filipinos
OUR LADY OF FATIMA UNIVERISITY
Dean de Leon elected as the next President of the SOUTH EAST ASIA ASSOCIATION FOR DENTAL EDUCATION (SEAADE)

Dr Arnulo De Leon, Dean of the College of Dentistry, Our Lady of Fatima University

The institutional members of the South East Asian Association for Dental Education (SEAADE) gave the mandate to their full-time Dean of Our Lady of Fatima University, DR.R.I.S. as the next President of the Association of the distinguished deans of the various dental colleges in the region. The Association bestowed upon Dean De Leon that singular honor of being the first ever Filipino to hold the highest position in the more than 20 years of existence and the only association which defines the direction of the dental education in the South East Asia region.

The election of the new Council was held during the 21st Annual SEAADE meeting held at the Grand Hotel, Taipei, Taiwan last September 29, 2015. At that time, Dean De Leon has been actively serving as a Councilor of the SEAADE COUNCIL and contributing to the furtherance of the goals of the Association in other various committee works. As the incumbent President of the Philippine Association of Dental Colleges, Dean De Leon has been also providing support in enhancing the philosophy and advocacy of the aforementioned international organization amongst the Filipino dental academicians.

The year of being elected to the aforementioned position is also a manifestation of a higher level recognition of one's action and will to take the point in reforming the major stakeholders in the realm of excellence and relevance. To a six-month outing that ran until Oct. 28, 2015, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), culling from amongst other achievements, his commendable dedication and contribution to the dental academia as attested by his colleagues, named Dean De Leon as the PRC 2015 Outstanding Professional in the field of Dentistry.

BEGUILTBTEEN claims annually the lives of more than 5.5 million children under the age of five around the world, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

In the Philippines, although the number of underweight schoolchildren has declined over the past years, many still suffer from hunger, poverty and food insecurity.

Beale Serrano, senior brand manager of Chuvs White, said, "There are 13 million Filipino children who are currently undernourished."

This situation was highlighted during the recent Palarosan sang-tuyo, Bantayan sa Saya, the Philippines' biggest grab-school competition on nutrition education.

The event, initiated by the Department of Education (DepEd) and Kraft Foods, aimed to raise awareness of and generate support for the fight against malnutrition.

It was part of DepEd's efforts to teach children, especially in public schools, that MOOF were not just fillers but vitamins needed by the body as well as other nutritional facts.

The final round of the three-month event was held at the University Theater of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Regional champions, which included students from Cagayan de Oro City, Isabela, Zamboanga, Cebu and Leyte, competed in subjecting pagbilao (about reading), modified set, story writing, cheering competition and jardinerian, a costumes designing contest using Chuvs White jars and cups.

Serrano explained the rationale for the competition. "In the fight against malnutrition, we're searching for an activity that is sustainable and at the same time can make a deep impact on the lives of these schoolchildren."

He said the nationalistic response from consumers will ensure the company savored on its Goon Palamuratan was able to sustain that balance.

Apart from being a learning experience, Kraft Foods says Palamuratan as a transformative way of teaching nutrition education to elementary students.

"These schoolchildren are at the stage of developing a sense of responsibility," said Alex Gan Tandoyan, category manager of Kraft Foods. "This is why we want them to learn proper nutrition through a series of fun, creative and learning activities."

He said children learned basic lessons and values in school.

Winners received cash prizes, medals, trophies and gift packs. First prize was P20,000; second, P15,000; and third P10,000.

A People's Choice award was also given in every event for the school that got the highest votes from all participants. Gift certificates from Expressions were given to winners.

THE ENTHUSIASTIC bunch from Iriga Central School wins first prize in Sukyong Pagbilao.

Winners

For the sukyong pagbilao contest, its first place was Iriga Central School (Iriga City, Region V), second, Tinajeros Elementary School (Malabon City, National Capital Region or NCR); third, St. Louis University Elementary School (Baguio City, Cordillera Administrative Region or CAR).

The San Dionisio Elementary School in Parañaque received the People's Choice award.

The Iriga Central School also topped the cheering competition, followed by Santo Niño SPED Center (Tacloban City, Region VIII), second; and Dasmariñas Central Elementary School (Cavite), third.

The People's Choice was Olongapo City Elementary School.

ENERGY and enthusiasm also gave Iriga Central School the top prize in the cheering competition.